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# Wrestler<sup>THE</sup>

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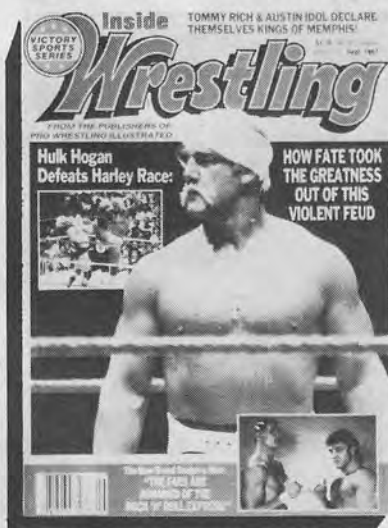
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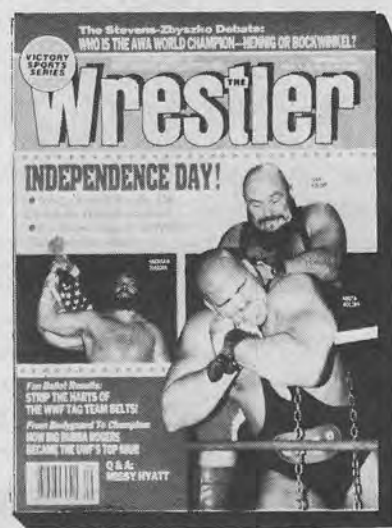
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# YOUR LETTERS

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## BEWARE OF ORNDORFF

You know, it really didn't surprise me that Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff fired Bobby Heenan ... again. To top it all off, he hired as his "new" manager Oliver Humperdink. Orndorff has really lost his mind. He doesn't know if he wants to be good or bad anymore. He's a really mixed-up man.

Well, if Hogan wants to compete in tag team matches with Orndorff again, he had better think twice, because we fans know as well as Ho-

gan that Orndorff is not to be trusted. Remember what happened last year, Hulk?

PHILLIP BRUNO  
New York, NY

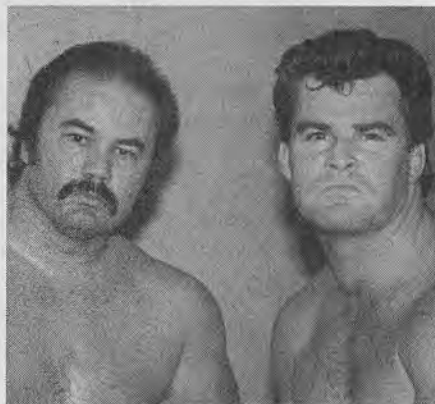
## DON'T FORGIVE MADRIL

I'm writing this letter in total disbelief at what I hear when I watch World Class wrestling. I am talking about the fans rooting for that low-life scum Al Madril. Are the fans forgetting what happened just a few short months ago? Let me refresh your memory.

One night, Kerry Von Erich came to the ring to ask Brian Adias a few questions. Well, Brian didn't seem to have a lot to say, but Al Madril sure wasn't at a loss for words. He talked and talked, continuing to put Kerry down, saying, "You're nothing, Von Erich, you never have been and you never will be."

Kerry got pretty ticked off, but all he could do was respond verbally since he was still on crutches from his motorcycle accident. Kerry was starting to reply to Adias when Madril picked up Kerry's crutch and began ruthlessly beating Kerry's hurt leg and ankle. I sat there and watched this gorgeous human being getting his leg messed up again!

Now I ask you, how could you for-



In Lisa Rozwenc's opinion, Al Madril and Brian Adias, though now apart, deserve each other.

give a man that put Kerry through so much pain?

LISA ROZWENC  
Hollywood, FL

## WAITING FOR MAGNUM

I'm curious as to the whereabouts of my favorite wrestler, Magnum T.A. I had been watching the syndicated program *Pro Wrestling This Week* to see if he was still doing commentary in the UWF (we don't get that federation on our stations), and I'm glad to see that Magnum is indeed behind the microphone and in the public eye.

Not only is Magnum an excellent wrestler, but he's a nice guy, and his family is nice, too. I was lucky

(Continued on page 60)



Rick Rude whips Paul Orndorff across the ring. Phillip Bruno warns that Orndorff should not be trusted, even though he has just turned good and fired Bobby Heenan again.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

**RONNIE GARVIN** IS the new NWA World heavyweight champion!

The veteran grappler won his first-ever World title by pinning **Ric Flair** after 39 minutes and 28 seconds of action in a steel cage match on September 25 at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena. After his stunning victory, Garvin declared himself the working man's champion. "I want to dedicate this championship to those folks who pay their hard-earned money to see a champion that respects the rules of this great profession," he told reporters afterward.

Flair seemed uncharacteristically laid back about losing the title he held since August 9, 1986, when he regained it from **Dusty Rhodes** in St. Louis. "He beat me tonight, but there's no way in hell he'll ever do it again," Flair said. "With all the times we've wrestled, you had to figure he'd get lucky once. I guarantee I'll have the title back within a week."

But as of press time, Flair had yet to fulfill his promise. Garvin retained the title the following evening in Norfolk, Virginia, when Flair was counted out of the ring. Then in Greensboro, North Caroli-



Ronnie Garvin is jubilant as promoter Jim Crockett straps the NWA World championship belt around his waist. Garvin pinned Ric Flair with a sunset flip from the ropes in a Detroit cage match that lasted nearly 40 minutes.

na, on September 27, Garvin defeated **Bubba Rogers**. Garvin is slated for a heavy schedule of title defenses, many against Flair, leading up to a possible Starrcade showdown with his archrival on Thanksgiving.

Garvin's victory over Flair was a wrestling classic. The man known as "Hands of Stone" almost scored an early victory over Flair by applying the Boston crab, but Flair grabbed the ropes and was released. A cocky Flair then tried to work on Garvin, but little by little, "The Nature Boy" realized Ronnie

would not give up easily.

Indeed, it appeared Garvin was getting stronger as the match went on. Flair's chops and punches proved ineffective. Finally, "Slick Ric" got worn down. Garvin shocked the crowd by putting Flair in a figure-four leglock, but Ric reversed it. Flair tried to smash Garvin's head into the cage, but Ronnie lifted his knee and bloodied Flair's face.

Flair tried to climb out of the cage and Garvin pulled him down. Then Flair fell to the mat and Gar-

*(Continued on page 56)*



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# CORRESPONDENTS

## REPORTS

**COLUMBUS, OH (Correspondent—Gary Graham):** The UWF made a smashing debut in Ohio's capital with a superb card of wrestling action. In one of the feature matches, former friends Chris Adams and Terry Taylor squared off. As expected, it was a brawl from start to finish. Taylor began by choking Adams with the tape on his wrist and throwing Adams to the floor. After blocking a suplex on the concrete floor, Adams

kicked Taylor below the belt and hit him with a chair. After bouncing back and forth between the ring and the floor about 10 times, the referee finally counted both men out of the ring.

In other bouts: Barry Windham pinned Rick Steiner . . . Steve Williams defeated Big Bubba Rogers . . . Brad Armstrong & Tim Horner defeated The Midnight Express by DQ . . . Ron Simmons pinned Black Bart.



Terry Taylor throws Chris Adams out of the ring. These two former friends squared off in Columbus, Ohio, where they were both counted out.

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN (Correspondent—Aaron Goff):** Greg Gagne's AWA World title victory celebration was cut short in Minneapolis when his apparent defeat of champion Curt Hennig was reversed by official decision.

Hennig started the match by attacking Gagne before the bell. The champion weakened the challenger with elbowsmashes, kneelifts, and forearm smashes. Gagne countered with judo chops, elbowblocks, and an aerial attack.

Hennig fell into trouble after Gagne placed him in three successive submission holds: an Indian deathlock, a figure-four leglock, and a sleeperhold. Frustrated, Hennig resorted to brawling tactics, but Gagne kept up his relentless attack.

The controversy came when Hennig collided with referee Gary DeRusha, knocking him out of the ring. Hennig tried to ambush Gagne, but the challenger accidentally backflipped Hennig over the top rope. Referee Marty Miller, who had been watching the match from ringside, jumped into the ring to continue for the injured DeRusha.

Gagne then let loose an aerial attack that included two dropkicks and a bodypress and resulted in a clear pinfall over Hennig. Miller awarded Gagne the belt. However,

*(Continued on page 64)*

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**Q:** "My question is for The Road Warriors and Paul Ellering: Why are you guys avoiding those sissies, The Rock 'n' Roll Express?"—Gene I. Sullivan, Spotsylvania, VA

**A:** "Listen, wimp," snapped Road Warrior Hawk, "we're not avoiding The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Me, Animal, and Paul don't avoid *anybody*, we've just got better things to do right now, and one of those things isn't answering questions from fans who don't know anything. Besides, who the heck would name their town after a dog?" Added Ellering: "There is more to this problem than meets the eye. The NWA promoters are rarely willing to schedule matches between two popular teams. I am currently working on this matter with my attorneys, who have been in contact with NWA officials. Hopefully, this situation will be resolved shortly. However, may I assure you, Mr. Sullivan, that we are not avoiding anyone."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "My question is for The Midnight Rockers: I thought my dream finally came true when I read that

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Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: **YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.**

Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion.

you guys were coming to the WWF. You've always been and always will be my favorites and I wanted to see you wrestle in person. So why did you leave the WWF after only a few days? Do you think you'll ever come

back?"—Sonya Vangosen, Berkeley Springs, WV

**A:** "Thanks for your kind words, Sonya," said Rocker Marty Jannetty. "To answer your question, a lot of things happened after we decided to leave the AWA and we had a couple of contractual problems with the WWF. So, me and Shawn just decided to pack our bags and look elsewhere, and now here we are in the Continental Wrestling Federation, down here with the good ol' boys in Alabama and Tennessee. I'm sorry that you haven't gotten the chance to see us, but maybe you'll get down here some time. The wrestling is great, and me and Shawn are improving every day. As for returning to the WWF, you never know what's gonna happen, but right now I don't think so."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "My question is for Kevin Von Erich: Now that you've lost the World Class heavyweight title, what are you going to do to get it back?"—Jason Perry, San Antonio, TX

**A:** "To tell you the truth, Jason," answered Kevin, "I don't really think I lost the title. It was taken away from me because of circumstances beyond my control. If Al Perez wants to call himself champion, fine, but I'm gonna get that belt back from him the only way I know how, and that's hard work, dedication, and outstanding scientific wrestling. That's how we Von Erichs do things down here in Texas."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I have a question for Jesse Ventura: Now that you're announcing less and making more movies, I was wondering how it was that you got involved with Hollywood?"—Laurie Smythers, Brooklyn, NY

**A:** "What happened was Barry Bloom, who is now my manager, was a Hollywood agent in California with the Mary Ellen White

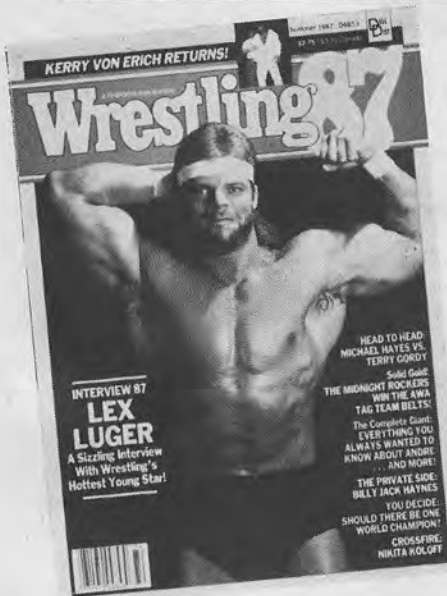
(Continued on page 48)



The Midnight Rockers execute their "rockerplex" on Jose Estrada. The former AWA World tag team champions are now wrestling in the Continental area. Their stay in the WWF was a short one.

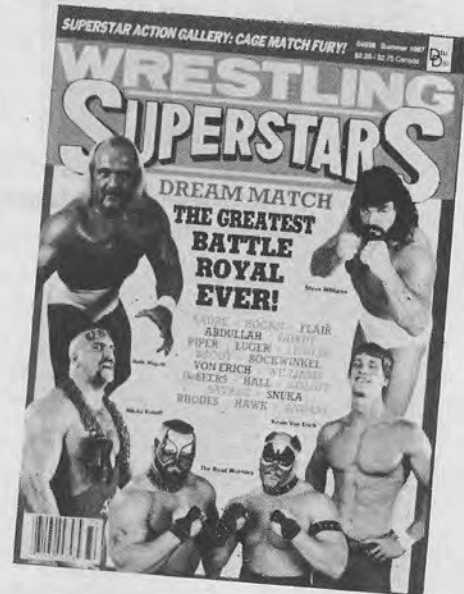
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# Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



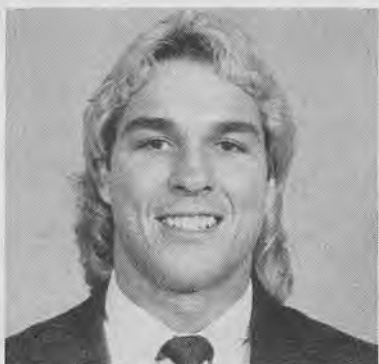
*Thumbs Up* to Randy Savage. Chivalry is not dead, as "The Macho Man" proved at the WWF's September Madison Square Garden card. Yes, Savage is certainly turning into a gentleman. After a rousing non-title match victory over Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man, Savage took in the cheers of the fans while his beautiful manager Elizabeth stood by. Usually, Elizabeth will then hold the ropes open for Savage so he can step out of the ring. But this time, Savage held the ropes open for Elizabeth. It was a touching moment that was acknowledged by the wildly cheering fans.



*Thumbs Up* to Ron Garvin. Hands of stone, stubborn like a rock. Ronnie Garvin vowed he wouldn't give up until he won the NWA World championship from Ric Flair, and on September 25 in Detroit it finally happened. Ronnie, who barely a year ago wasn't even considered a top contender for the belt, dedicated himself to winning his first World championship and got the job done. Certainly, Flair is an incredible competitor and won't take the loss lightly, but getting the belt back from a man as determined as Garvin won't be easy.



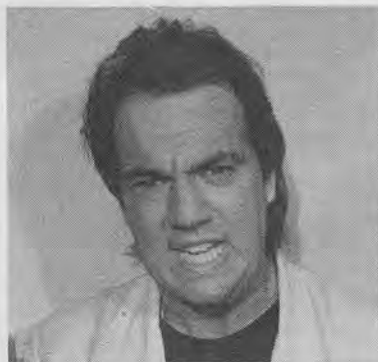
*Thumbs Up* to Tom Pritchard. That was certainly quite a display of independence by Pritchard on a recent Continental area card. It all started when Pritchard's partner, the vicious New Zealander Jonathan Boyd, told Tom that he would have to cut off his long, curly hair, give up rock 'n' roll music, and bow down to the New Zealand flag. Pritchard refused and was attacked by Jimmy Golden and Boyd after a six-man match. But he gained revenge later in the week after an aggressive victory in a singles match. Boyd was impressed and told Pritchard he'd take him back. Pritchard's bold answer: "No way!"



*Thumbs Up* to Terry Taylor. That's right, thumbs up. We haven't forgotten that the new UWF TV champion broke our hearts with his stunning switch from beloved scientific wrestler to arrogant rulebreaker. And we haven't forgotten that he used illegal means—and the help of Eddie Gilbert—to rob Shane Douglas of the title. But it took a lot of guts for Taylor to challenge the larger and more powerful NWA TV champion Nikita Koloff to a title vs. title match, which will be one of the highlights of Starrcade. Taylor hasn't lost his competitive spirit.

# Thumbs Down

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*Thumbs Down* to Paul E. Dangerously. *Yecch!* This guy really gives us a bad taste in our mouths. He's always up to no good. At a recent AWA TV taping in Las Vegas, Dangerously had the nerve to offer Tommy Rich a job and call him a sissy. Then he distracted referee Gary DeRusha while Adrian Adonis ran in and attacked Rich during a match against Tom Stone. Dangerously and Adonis then put a pink dress on Rich and wiped lipstick on his face. To top things off, Randy Rose smashed J.T. Southern's right shoulder with a telephone handed to him by Dangerously. This cowardly man must be stopped!

---



*Thumbs Down* to George Steele. Put "The Animal" back in a cage where he belongs! Yes, we know people love him. Steele, who can be a charming creature at times, seems to get more than his share of cheers when he comes to the ring. But let's face it, folks: Steele breaks the rules. He constantly hits opponents—and referees—over the head with chairs, tears apart turnbuckles with his teeth, and attacks wrestlers before the bell. This isn't wrestling! Steele is a sub-human creature gone totally out of control. It's time to ban George "The Animal" Steele!

---



*Thumbs Down* to Missy Hyatt. Fan or journalist? Fiancee or unbiased reporter? It's time for Missy Hyatt to make a decision. In these days of expanded TV coverage of wrestling, the term "rulebreaking commentator" is a misnomer. Jesse Ventura provides the rulebreaker's point of view, but at least he doesn't root for them on the air. On the other hand, Hyatt's incessant shilling for Eddie Gilbert and his men is totally out of hand. Can we trust her judgment? Can she conduct an objective interview? Sadly, we doubt it. Maybe she should return to ringside. She's nothing more than a valet after all.

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*Thumbs Down* to Jim Cornette. What a spoiled brat! Cornette might be able to get away with anything around his mother, but in the world of professional wrestling he'd be well advised to take a more mature attitude. On a recent edition of *World Championship Wrestling*, Cornette interrupted Sean Royal during an interview and pushed him away. This is absolutely improper, extremely rude behavior. With Chris Champion's return to the ring just around the corner, we wouldn't be surprised to see The New Breed take on Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton—with Cornette as a third target! □



# THE Wrestler

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# INTRODUCING JASON THE TERRIBLE

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**N**O ONE KNOWS where he came from, only that he loves to maim. His trademark is a hockey goaltender's mask that he uses in an offensive manner not even the most aggressive NHL goalie would have dreamed possible. His true identity remains one of the sport's most sought-after secrets, but there is no secret about his impact on the Stampede wrestling scene.

Jason the Terrible, the muscular madman in the goalie mask, has cut a path of destruction through the Calgary area that has caused many wrestlers, fans, and officials to mount a behind-the-scenes campaign to have him banned.

According to one insider, Jason was originally allowed to wear the mask in order to disguise his horribly disfigured face that was burned in a childhood gasoline explosion. His parents, it is said, made him wear the hockey mask to spare the young man the agony of seeing how his appearance revolted others.

When Jason first approached Stampede officials about wrestling there, they balked at permitting a man to wear such a mask in the ring. Their argument was that its hard surface would give Jason an unfair defense against other wrestlers. Yet Jason's parents pleaded

*(Continued on page 20)*



Wielding an axhandle and sporting a hockey mask, Jason the Terrible is a frightening sight. The hard mask is more than a cover-up for his disfigured face; it is a weapon he uses just as effectively as any wrestling maneuver.

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**In the horror classic *Friday The 13th*, a huge madman in a hockey goalie's mask instilled nightmares in an entire moviegoing generation. But the arrival of Jason the Terrible in the Calgary Stampede area was definitely a nightmare come true for those who must contend with him!**

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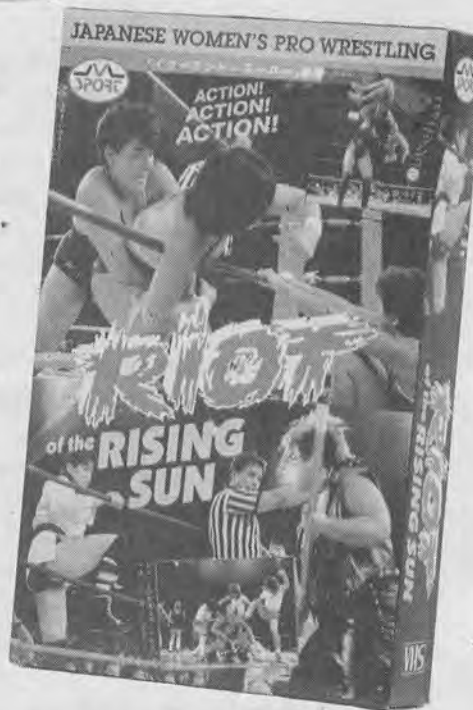
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- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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# INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)

with Calgary officials to allow him to wrestle, where he could at least function as a productive member of society and perhaps recapture some of the sense of self-worth that was wiped out by his disfigurement.

A crucial moment came when Jason shed his mask before Calgary officials to emphasize his inability to function in normal society. Their initial horror at the sight was eventually overcome by pity, and Jason was granted a special dispensation to wrestle with the mask.

Yet what had originally been a well-intentioned action by Calgary officials has backfired on them. Perhaps blinded by their compassion, they forgot to take into account the psychological damage Jason may have suffered in his accident. Upon stepping into the ring, Jason soon revealed a spirit that was more warped and tortured than his ravaged exterior—a spirit that absolutely reveled in the infliction of pain. Indeed, Jason harbors a deep hatred against all those who have not suffered as he has, and his 6'3", 270-pound frame gives him the means to express his resentment.

And there's the mask. Originally a means of shielding Jason's fragile ego, the mask has developed into one of the most feared instruments of destruction anywhere in the sport. His "power headbutt" has already put several Stampede wrestlers out of action; it almost always causes lacerations, usually results in a concussion, and in one instance has inflicted a skull fracture.

Despite Jason's penchant for reckless havoc, there is a small minority of Calgary wrestlers whose interest is served by having this menace continue to wrestle. That group of nefarious rule-breakers, known as "Karachi



Jason clotheslines Brian Pillman, a good young wrestler whom he bloodied badly. Jason and his cohorts, including Gama and Makian Singh, mean to humiliate Pillman and his friends.

Vice," is led by the Singh brothers, Gama and Makian. Along with manager/wrestler Judah Rosenbloom, Karachi Vice was quick to embrace Jason as an associate, and have used him as their cat's paw in their feuds with such fan favorites as the Hart family, Biff Wellington, and Brian Pillman.

In August, one month after his debut, Jason attacked Pillman, one of the Stampede area's best young scientific wrestlers. It happened after Pillman scored a clean pinfall over Rosenbloom. The two feuded for nearly a month, with Jason showing surprising—and destructive—versatility: In addition to his mask, he also used chairs, an axhandle, the ring steps, and just about anything else he could find as a foreign object to bloody Pillman.

Just days later, a match between Jason and Bruce Hart, one of the toughest sluggers anywhere in the sport, turned into such a bloody mess that Stampede officials were overcome by revulsion and refused to televise the bout.

As a result of such tactics, some wrestling journalists refuse even to consider Jason a wrestler at all. His scientific skills are nonexistent, and the man is more intent on injuring his opponents than attaining title shots or compiling any kind of won-lost record. Other followers of the sport claim that his mask should be replaced by a more conventional cloth mask that would suffice just as well to hide his scars, but would not afford him the advantage of defense or allow him to use the hard mask as a weapon.

*Inside Wrestling* Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum has a unique perspective on Jason. Rosenbaum, a standout goalie in a Long Island amateur hockey league, was at first incredulous, then appalled, by the news of Jason's actions.

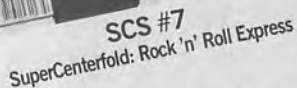
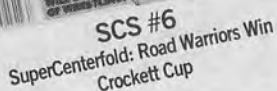
"There's just no way that should be allowed," said Rosenbaum. "As a goalie, I've had slapshots deflected off my mask, and haven't felt a thing. Those masks are unbelievably strong, and I can imagine what kind of damage a mask could inflict if used as a weapon in a match. And defensively, it's a big plus: Blows to the face won't have the same effect, clawholds are out, and a sleeperhold is impossible. It just shouldn't be allowed."

But Calgary officials *are* allowing it, and all of wrestling has a stake in the outcome. The Calgary area has produced some of the sport's most skilled (The British Bulldogs and Brett Hart) and colorful (The Honky Tonk Man) wrestlers. Jason's arrival on the scene has shifted the emphasis from excellence and exuberance to sheer survival.

Rarely has one man wrought such destruction in so short a time; the future only promises more of the same. □

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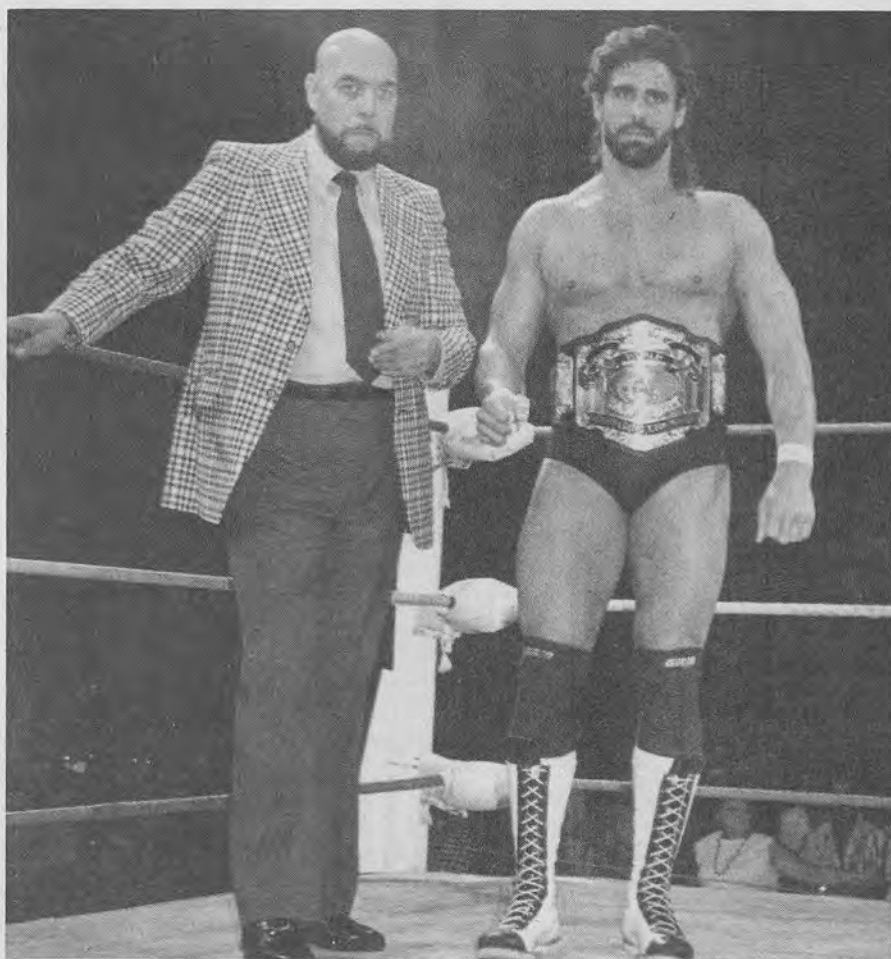
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### Alternate choices

# Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



Perez is accompanied by Gary Hart, who proudly counts Perez as his first-ever World Class champion. Perez, however, is frequently accused of needing outside help from Brian Adias to hang on to his belt.

**Q:** Well, Al, congratulations on winning the title, although I'm not too sure "winning" is the right word to use in this . . .

**A:** Just hold on there for one minute! Anyone with half a brain knew that even if Von Erich had gotten up the nerve to face me that night, the title was still as good as mine. After the way me and my good friend Brian Adias have worn him down this summer, the title was ready to drop into my hands like ripe fruit. I mean, Fritz Von Erich, the man's father, was on that medical board that forced him to forfeit the title! You can't tell me he wasn't protecting his son. They must have decided that it was better for Kevin to forfeit the title than to have the guts beaten out of him. If you ask me, it was a smart decision. Kevin keeps his health and physical well-being, and I get the title, as I would have anyway.

**Q:** So it was just a question of your being in the right place at the right time, huh?

**A:** Say being the right *person* at the right time. The title was mine, it was just a question of time before I defeated Von Erich in the ring. I rose to become the number-one contender by beating some pretty good wrestlers, and everybody knows that Kevin's just a shadow of his former self. The only difference between my being awarded



# AL PEREZ

**A**UGUST WAS A terrible month for Kevin Von Erich, but a great one for Al Perez. The Tampa, Florida, native was awarded the World Class heavyweight title when Von Erich suffered an injury at the hands of Brian Adias and was ruled physically ineligible to defend the title against Perez.

Perez, at the time, also held the World Class Texas title. That championship was quickly vacated, allowing Perez to devote his full energies to defending the World Class heavyweight belt. The lingering controversy surrounding the title change, though, concerned the action of a World Class medical advisory board that told Kevin not to wrestle Perez, thus forcing him to forfeit the title. That advice overrode a doctor's opinion. And when one considers that Fritz Von Erich is a member of the advisory board, the controversy becomes more of a mystery.

Many fans will be surprised to learn that the strongly muscled Perez has been a pro for six years. He's wrestled extensively in the UWF and WWC areas, but his current World Class success—coming under the management of Gary Hart—is certainly the high point of his career. Perez was happy to discuss that career, and his current title, with *The Wrestler* reporter Gian Trotta.

the title, instead of winning it by pinfall, is that I didn't have to break a sweat that night. But then again, Von Erich hasn't exactly been taking people to the limit lately, so I probably wouldn't have broken sweat even if I *did* wrestle that night.

**Q:** Do you become angry when people say that you didn't deserve the title?

**A:** No, because if I listen to what the fans or you writers have said about me, I would have been out of wrestling long ago and doing something else. I have confidence in myself, in my own skills, and in my manager, Gary Hart. After I won the Texas title in June, I became positive that I could have won the heavyweight title at any time—and that's the secret edge that is going to help me retain it. I've already given Von Erich a rematch, and beaten him decisively.

**Q:** We all know about that rematch. Now, couldn't it be said that you won that match only because Kevin became so intent on chasing Brian Adias that he was counted out? He seemed to be dominating the action up to that point. And if my memory is correct, *he* had *you* in the clawhold.

**A:** If Kevin wants to let himself be distracted in the midst of a title match by a guy he can wrestle any other night of the week, well, then



World Class champion Al Perez clamps a headlock on Tony Atlas. Although he didn't actually win the title in the ring, Perez is an excellent technical wrestler.

that just shows how unfit he is, and why he doesn't deserve to be champion. The boy should get his priorities in order.

**Q:** It would seem that you already owed a great deal to Brian Adias before that match. Now I think you're deeply in his debt. Any reaction?

**A:** Let me say that Brian Adias is one of my best friends in the world, and a person I feel grateful to. He supports me 100 percent as champion. And that, along with the guidance of Gary Hart, insures that my championship reign will be a long and prosperous one. In fact, Brian said that he might teach me



Perez chinlocks Kevin Von Erich, the number-one contender for his title. Perez says that Adias is going to teach him the "Oriental tool" to counter Von Erich's clawhold. The champion will have even more to worry about when Kerry Von Erich comes back.

how to use the Oriental tool. It was supposed to be a surprise for Kerry Von Erich's comeback, but I guess there's no harm in letting the cat out of the bag.

**Q:** But that move is illegal and should be banned! You mean you're actu-

ally going to use it?

**A:** Why not? When you're champion, everybody and their brother is after you. Just look at Kevin and Kerry. They'll do anything they can to beat me and get the title back, so the more weapons I have, the bet-

ter off I'll be. Adias has already proven what a deadly move it can be, and you can't deny the effect it's had on Kevin. Even if he was physically able to wrestle that night, his spirit had been broken by fear. And if you want to talk about a real dangerous move, let's talk about the clawhold. *That* move is dangerous and should be banned! Why don't you so-called journalists ever get on the Von Erichs' case about that?

**Q:** Most people really don't consider the clawhold to be in the same category as the oriental tool. One is a classic submission hold that a gutsy wrestler can escape from, while the Oriental tool is designed to end careers, not matches. Don't you agree?

**A:** You bet I don't! The only difference is that the Von Erichs use the claw, so that makes it okay. If I used the claw, you'd want to have it banned. You guys have been sucking up to the Von Erichs for so long that you can't see anyone else's point of view.

**Q:** Doesn't the fact that I'm here to hear your side of things make any impression at all?

**A:** Yeah, you're here to try to trap me into admitting that I'm guilty of something. Gary and Brian warned me about you guys. Next trick question, please.

**Q:** Well, it's not a trick question by any means. I mean, the whole situation surrounding the title change has raised so many questions that I hope you can answer. Nobody is doubting your qualifications to be champion—you can be a great scientific wrestler if you want to be. But having Adias interfere in your matches is not going to make you a great champion, because most of the . . .

**A:** You've got the wrong man if you think I'm going to hang my head and not be proud of being champion. It doesn't make a difference whether I won it by pinfall, submission, disqualification, or got it for my birthday. Like I said be-

fore, it would have happened sooner or later. And the sooner everybody realizes that the Von Erichs are finished as a force in wrestling, then the sooner a new era can begin. The title reign of Al Perez, the man who can do it all! Not only will I reign supreme as champion, but I'll make the people down here forget all about the Von Erichs!

**Q:** Now that last line is a little hard to swallow, especially since Kerry's announced that he'll be making a comeback in a few weeks. Aren't you a little worried about that?

**A:** Worried? Hah! Do you think another has-been Von Erich is going to create any problems for me? At least Kevin can run out of the ring when I start to beat him. Kerry won't be able to do that with that bum leg of his, so I'll have him totally at my mercy. That is, if he even gets into the ring with me. Why don't we talk about some other people? This conversation is getting pretty lame.

**Q:** Well, it's kind of hard to avoid the subject when you win a title from a Von Erich and a lot of people feel that you might lose the title to either Kevin or Kerry.

**A:** Then I guess that I've got my work cut out for me. Kevin's an ex-champion who's halfway to the junkheap; Kerry's just a retread who won't last 10 minutes in the ring with me.

**Q:** My final question: If you had a choice, would you rather have won the title in a real match?

**A:** What are you talking about, a *real* match? I deserved the title, and I've proven since that default that I am more of a man and more of a champion than Kevin can ever hope to be. I may not have beaten him the night he didn't wrestle, but I've beaten him since then, and that's good enough for me. You want to see a real match and a real wrestler, look at me, not those overinflated egotists, the Von Erichs. The era of the Von Erichs is over, and the era of Al Perez has just begun. Believe it. □

# Wrestling 87

## "For Today's Wrestling Fan"

*The magazine that explodes with color!*

### Wrestling 87

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- 16 pages of color
- Printed on coated slick paper
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- The Road Warriors threaten the NWA: "Treat Us Right—Or We're Gone!"
- The sellout of million-dollar man Ted DiBiase!
- Missing in action—why wrestling needs the return to the mainstream of David Schultz, Sgt. Slaughter, Bruiser Brody, Mil Mascaras, and Stan Hansen
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### Wrestling 87

**Packed With Color Photos Of Wrestling's Biggest Stars!**

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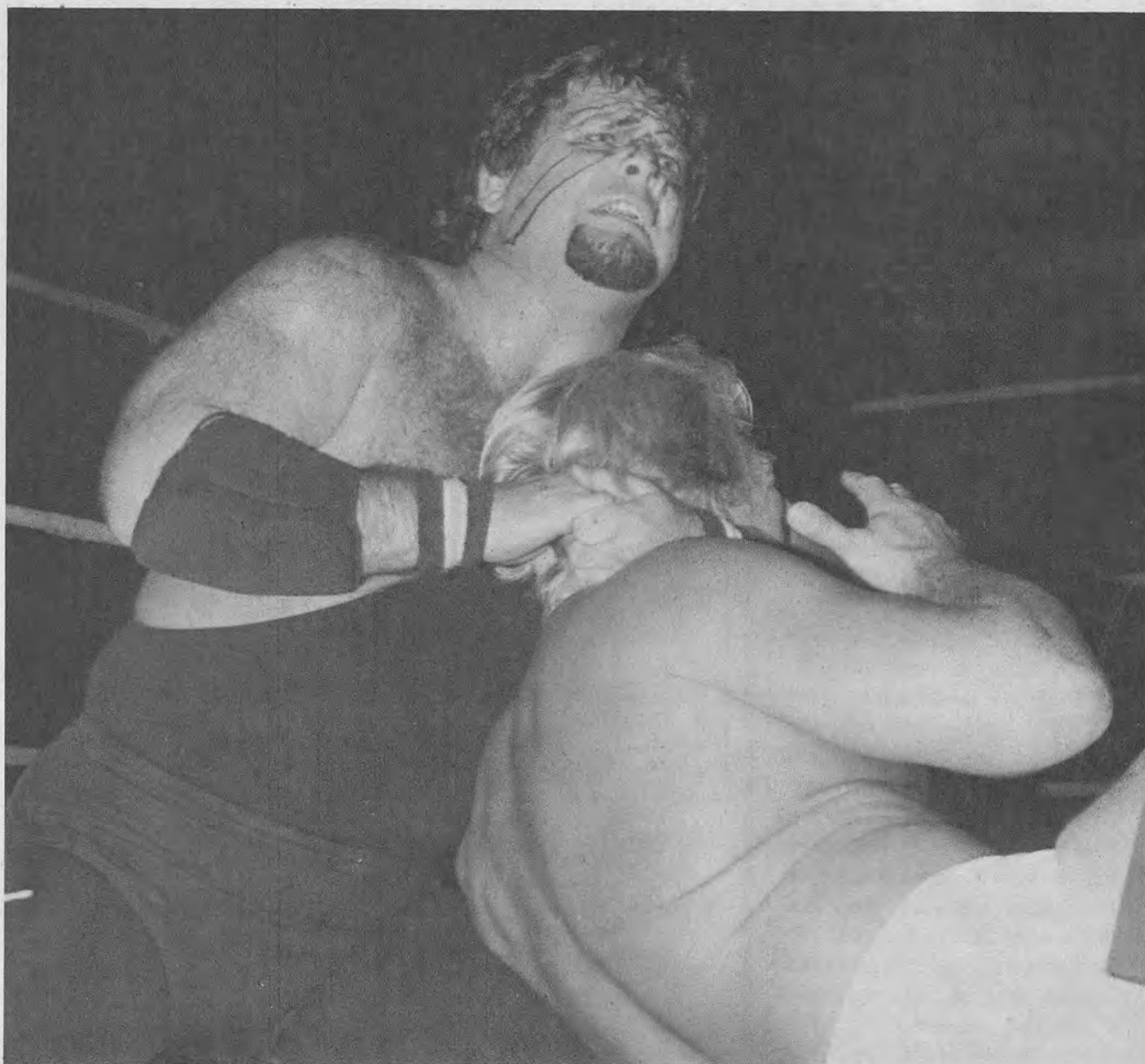
## THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

# RAY



**JERRY  
LAWLER**

Each month  
**THE WRESTLER'S** panel of experts  
will offer their candid opinions of one  
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming  
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,  
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Jerry Lawler (chinlocking Nick Bockwinkel) has been a mainstay in the Mid-Southern area for many years, but there are doubts about his ability to win a world title. Lawler would prefer to be a big fish in a small pond rather than be lost in the shuffle of a huge talent roster.



### **CAPT. LOU ALBANO**

"Ya know something, daddy, Captain Lou is telling you that Jerry Lawler has been a great star for his entire career, but where's he been doing it? Has he won the World championship in the WWF? No! Has he won the World championship in the NWA? No! Has he won the World championship in the AWA? No! And if you ask me, a man just hasn't proven what he can do until he wins the big one, and that's coming from the man who's won them all!"

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.



### **KILLER KOWALSKI**

"One of the things I like about Lawler is that although the fans cheer him, he's never let it affect him. He's still as tough as he's always been, although I'm not sure he's tough enough to make it full-time in one of the larger federations. I'll tell you, though, he's one of the few guys in the Mid-Southern area that, I think can give Bockwinkel or Hennig a hard time. Lawler's a veteran, and he knows what this sport is all about."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



### **PROF. TORU TANAKA**

"Jerry Lawler is typical American wrestler. He wear stupid crown and think he is emperor of wrestling, but crown mean nothing. It does not make him ruler. It does not make him better wrestler. He must beat weak opposition in Memphis, where stupid fans think Elvis Presley is great musician. Elvis Presley make ears sore and Jerry Lawler make me think of many bad wrestlers I have beaten in my life. Lawler should learn fine martial arts."

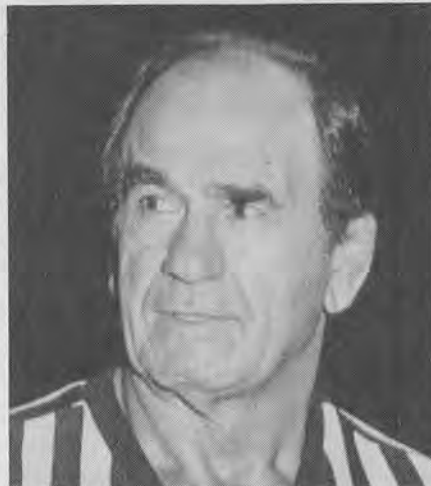
Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.



### **LARRY HENNIG**

"I saw that this Lawler guy gave my son a hard time for a little while recently, but he wasn't much of a problem in the end. Lawler's gonna be the king of Mid-Southern wrestling for the rest of his life, but he's never gonna get what he really desires, the AWA World title. Like it or not, that belt is gonna belong to the Hennig family for a long time. My boy Curt has proven that Lawler's no match for him."

Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



### **LOU THESZ**

"Lawler is a veteran, which gives him an extra edge over the young wrestlers because he knows their moves and he knows what to do in certain situations. Here's a man who's gotten very far in this game because he's always well-prepared. He knows what to expect. The way he held off Austin Idol and Tommy Rich earlier in the year proves that Lawler's here to stay. The man knows how to get out of difficulty and he knows how to use his time in the ring wisely."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



### **JACK BRISCO**

"Lawler's one of those guys who's been around so long, you have to respect him for that alone. When I think of the great wrestlers in the game right now, I think of Lawler. He's made it as a rulebreaker, as a fan favorite, he's never let the cheers of the fans soften him, and he's always wrestles one way: full speed ahead. To tell you the truth, Lawler is one of my favorite wrestlers to watch. Wrestling is so popular in Memphis because of Lawler."

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

# SPOT ★LIGHTS...

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

## SHERRI MARTEL

**T**HE REIGNING WWF World women's champion has been the most successful female wrestler in the United States over the past few years. Prior to her arrival in the WWF, she was a two-time AWA World women's champion.

Sherri Martel (no relation to Rick Martel) was born on February 8, 1958, in New Orleans and became interested in wrestling when her mother started taking her to matches in Mississippi. She started wrestling in 1980 and made her professional debut for an independent promotion in Memphis. Martel defeated Lou Lou Gaines by disqualification.

Sherri spent nine months wrestling in Memphis before deciding to enter Fabulous Moolah's training camp in Columbia, South Carolina. She was trained by Donna Christentello and, ironically, Moolah herself—the very woman she would beat for the WWF title seven years later. But after spending a year-and-a-half at the school, Martel decided to stop wrestling for nearly three years.

But the mat sport was in Martel's blood. She returned to the ring on June 28, 1985, at a combined NWA-AWA card at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey. Competing in a 12-woman battle royal against such established stars as Angel Vachon, Misty Blue, Candy Divine, and Kat LeRoux, Martel was the next-to-last person thrown out of the ring before Debbie



Combs finally won.

Next came another layoff before Martel came to the AWA on a full-time basis. And in late 1985, Sherri won the AWA women's title from Candi Divine in Comiskey Park by evading a flying bodypress and scoring the pin. Divine regained the belt on January 16, 1986, setting the stage for one of Martel's biggest victories.

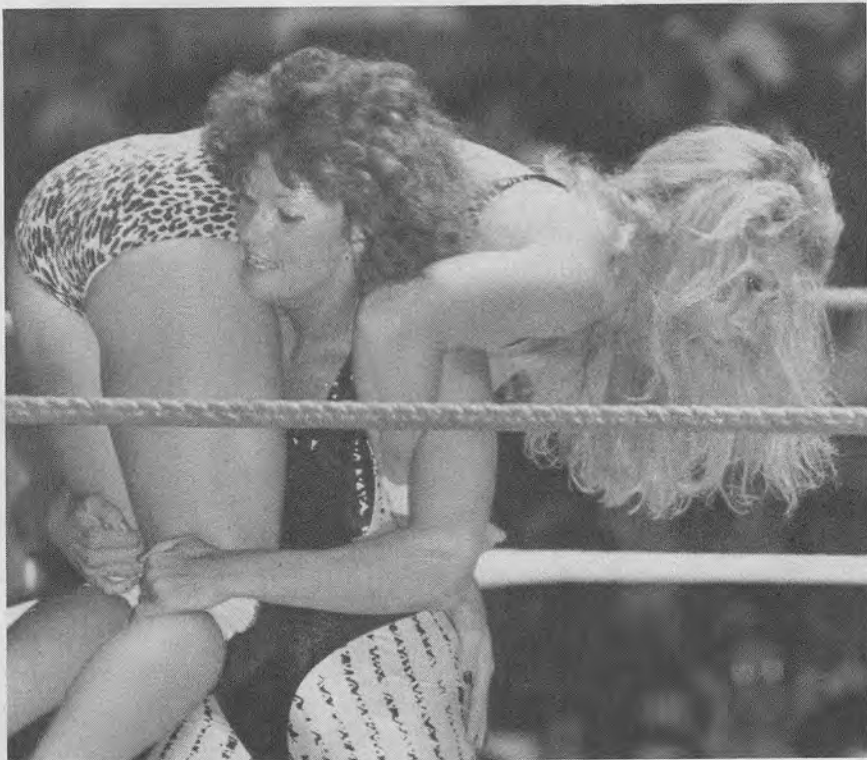
Sherri regained the title on July 28, 1986, in Oakland, California on ESPN's first live AWA broadcast. In the rulebreaking fashion that had by then become her trademark, Martel held the ropes while the referee's back was turned and pinned Divine.

Meanwhile, Martel was doing double duty as the manager of Buddy Rose and Doug Somers, the AWA

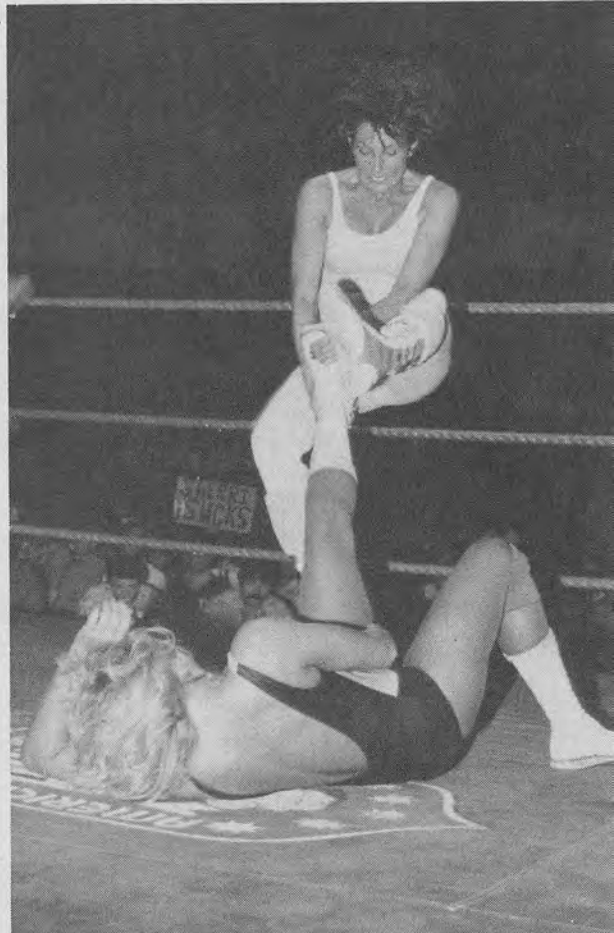
World tag team champions, and was a key ingredient in their success. She interfered to save the belt for Rose and Somers numerous times before they lost them to The Midnight Rockers on January 27, 1987.

Martel managed Kevin Kelly for a short time before she signed with the WWF. She made her WWF debut against Moolah in Houston on July 25 and used a flying body tackle to win the title. Since then, she's held off repeated challenges from Moolah and Velvet McIntyre.

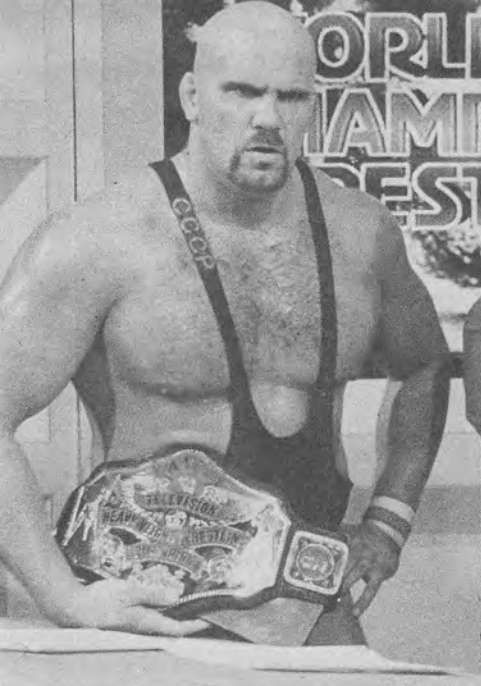
"Sensational" Sherri is currently at the peak of her career in the WWF, although she's still hated by the fans. *The Wrestler* is proud to present this special look at the controversial women's champion. □



WWF World women's champion Sherri Martel takes her Samoyeds for a walk (opposite page). Martel stands by Kevin Kelly (left), whom she managed right before leaving the AWA. Martel backflips Velvet McIntyre during a recent title defense (above).



Martel gets involved in a locker room fracas with Abdullah the Butcher, who must be three times her size (top left). She twists Princess Jasmine's arm (left) and executes a legdrop on Debbie Combs (above).



# NIKITA V TERRY

## Unscrambling The

**T**ERRY TAYLOR HAS become a victim of his own arrogance. When the UWF TV champion appeared on an interview and told the world that he wanted a match to unify the NWA and UWF TV

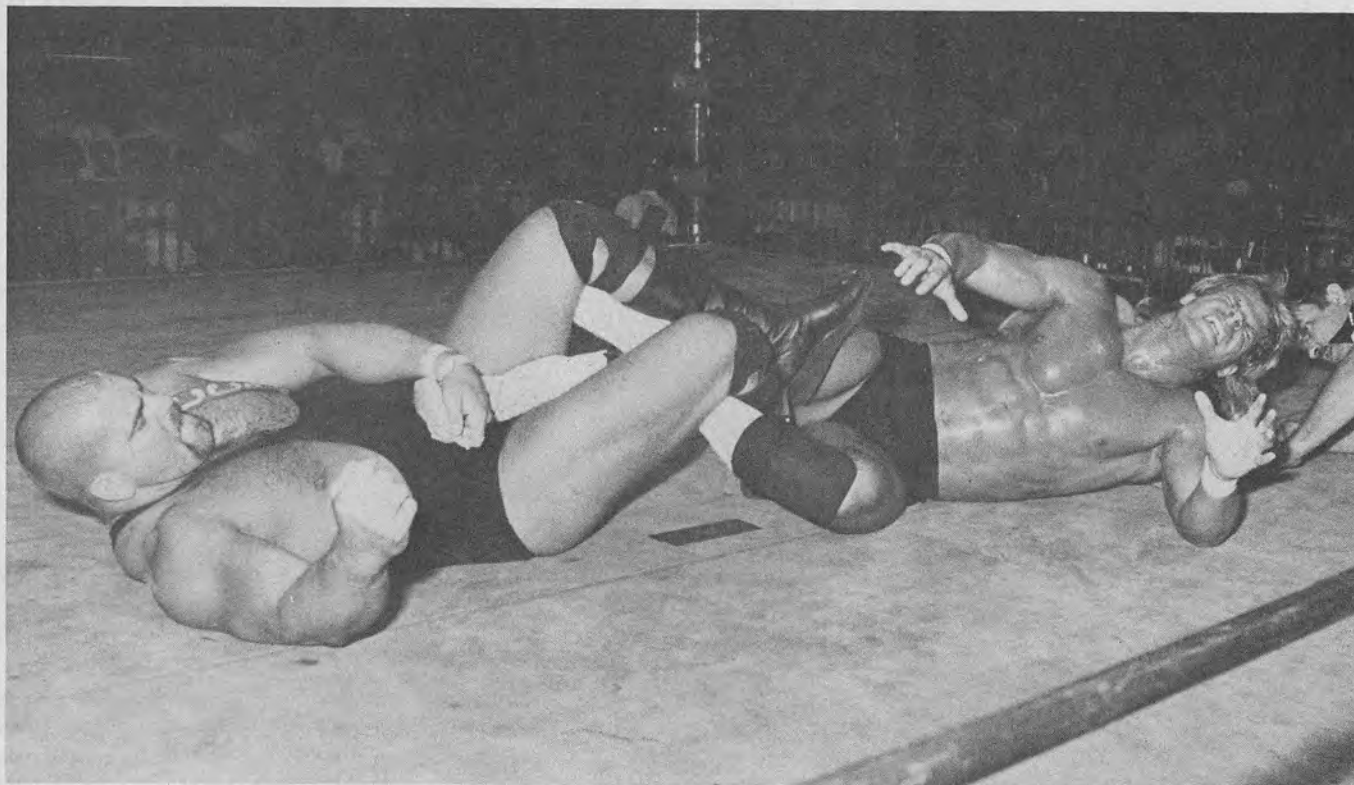
titles, he couldn't have possibly thought that his wish would be granted.

But in stepped Jim Crockett, John Ayres, and Nikita Koloff.

Crockett, the NWA promoter,

thought it was a great idea and started working on plans for a title unification match at Starrcade '87.

Ayres, the UWF commissioner, publicly stated that he was in favor of Crockett's plans and would work



Nikita Koloff catches Lex Luger in the figure-four leglock. Soon after losing the U.S. title to Luger, Koloff won the NWA television title from Tully Blanchard.

# KOLOFF S. TAYLOR



## TV Title Picture

alongside him. And NWA TV champ Nikita Koloff said (in broken English, of course) that he couldn't wait to get his hands on Taylor.

So Taylor, realizing that he put his foot in his mouth by requesting a match against a much larger, much more powerful opponent, was left with no choice but to go on insisting that he really *wants* to wrestle Nikita—and that he would have no trouble beating him. Said Taylor, "Koloff is too dumb to beat a man with my wrestling ability."

Now the stage is set for one of the most remarkable spectacles in professional wrestling: a title unification bout. There hasn't been one in the NWA since September 28, 1986, when Koloff, the U.S. champion, defeated National heavyweight titlist Wahoo McDaniel in Atlanta. Prior to that, the last one involving an NWA champion was held on

July 4, 1982, when Ric Flair took on WWF World champion Bob Backlund.

So while you're gearing up for what now seems the inevitable NWA World title clash between



Terry Taylor slams Davey Haskins. Taylor wants to unify his UWF TV title with Koloff's NWA television belt.

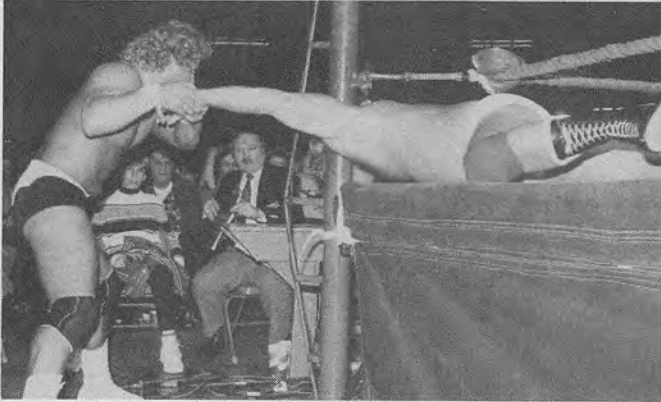
Flair and Ronnie Garvin at Starrcade, prepare yourself for one of the tastiest appetizers Jim Crockett Promotions could ever serve. Because when the last match of the night has slipped into history, the lasting memory of Thanksgiving 1987 might be the match between Taylor and Koloff.

"We are looking forward to the match between Nikita Koloff and Terry Taylor with great anticipation," said Crockett. "If these two men are able to retain their respective belts until Thanksgiving, we could have on our hands one of the greatest matches in wrestling history. Both of these men are putting up something very important, and one man will walk out of the ring without his title."

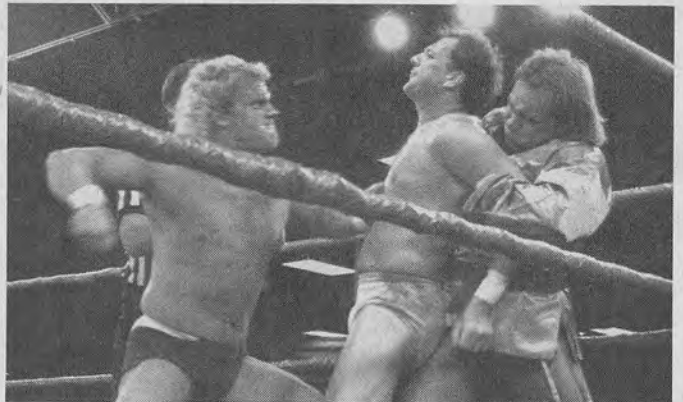
That, of course, is the appeal of a title vs. title match. In most title  
(Continued on page 50)

**One of wrestling's rarest events—a title unification match—is on tap for Starrcade '87. That's when Nikita Koloff and Terry Taylor will put the NWA and UWF TV belts on the line. Will Taylor's guile and scientific skills bring him the win, or will Koloff's power rule the day?**

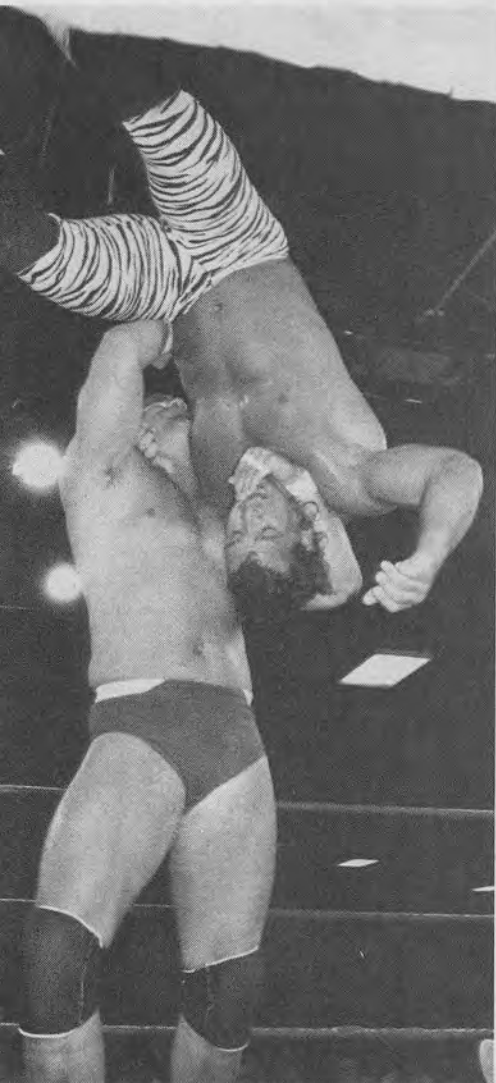
# Victim Of Circumstance



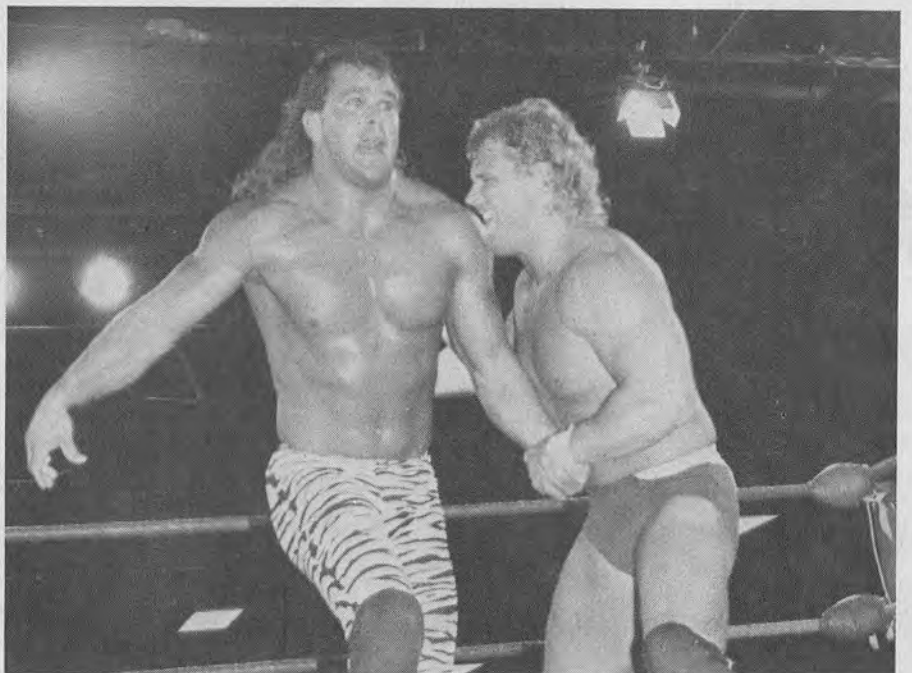
AWA World champion Curt Hennig bends Nick Bockwinkel's arm against the turnbuckle (above). Hennig and Larry Zbyszko double-team Greg Gagne (top right). Hennig won the title from Bockwinkel with Zbyszko's illegal help.



**WHY CURT  
HENNIG WILL  
NEVER GET  
THE RESPECT  
HE DESERVES**



Hennig suplexes D.J. Peterson (above) and whips him across the ring (right). Despite possessing fine wrestling skills, Hennig gets little acclaim as a World champion.





**T**HE JURY IS still out on Curt Hennig. Champion or cheater? Professional or pretender? No one is quite sure. Worse than that, however, not many people seem to care. Most fans seem to regard Hennig's AWA World title reign as a harmless, temporary condition that is certain to end at any moment. Like a mild cold, it will leave no marks and little memory. If respect creates champions, then Curt Hennig should consider his belt a borrowed accolade.

"Curt Hennig is no kind of champion," says Bruiser Brody, who's wrestled his share of world title matches in

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***Is AWA heavyweight champion Curt Hennig deserving of the accolades that accompany a world title? Or is he destined to remain the Rodney Dangerfield of professional wrestling?***

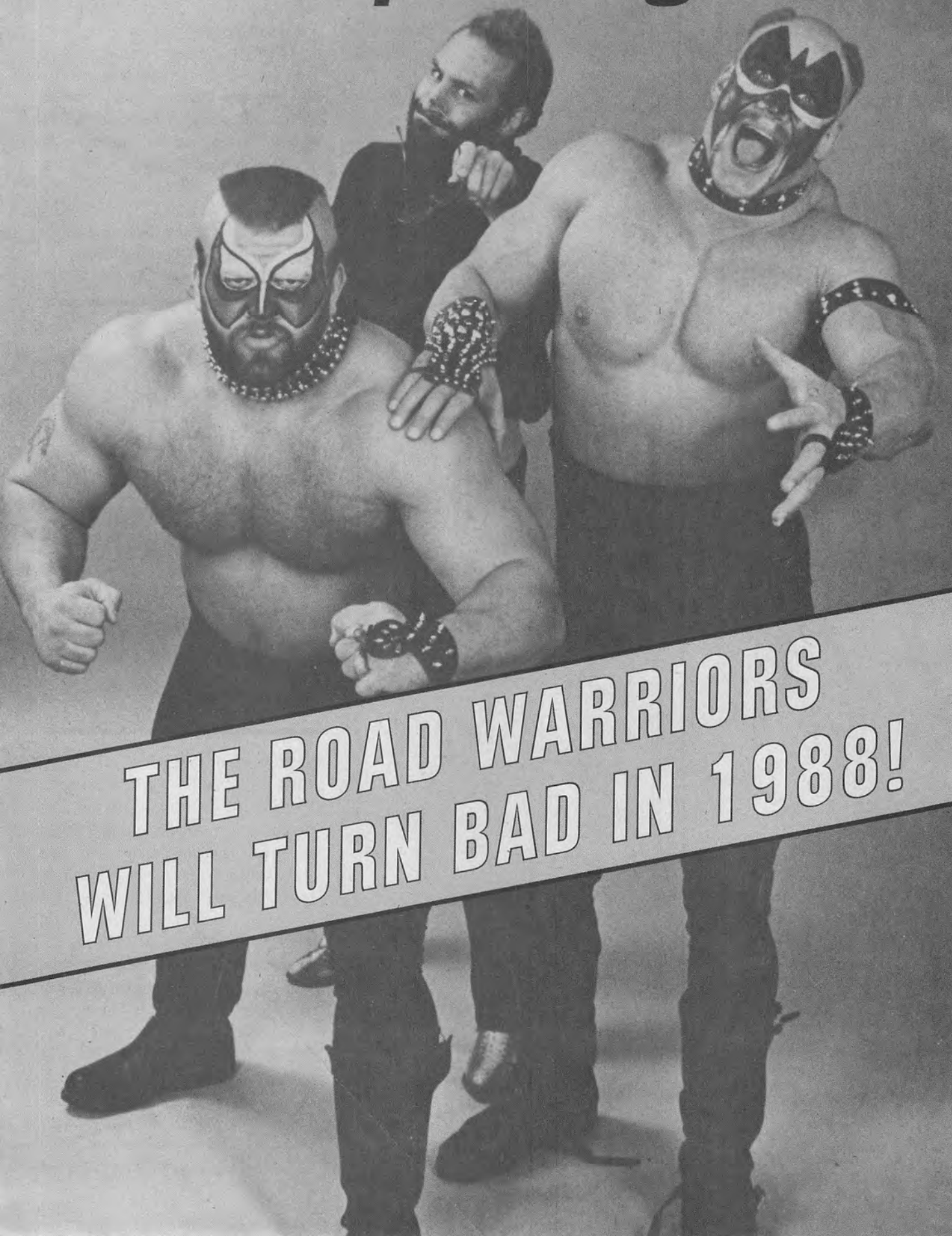
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all three major federations: the NWA, AWA, and WWF. "He's of little consideration to me. As far as I'm concerned, he's a non-person. If I felt it important enough, I'd turn him into pork sausage. But it's not worth it. Beating Hennig requires no effort. His very existence diminishes the World title."

One must consider where the criticism stops and the character assassination begins. In describing Hennig, the words "weak," "wimpy," and "whipping boy" are most often used. His character is dissected and condemned; interestingly enough, his technical abilities are rarely attacked. Which leads, inexorably, to the obvious conclusion:

*(Continued on page 54)*

***The Experts Agree:***



**THE ROAD WARRIORS  
WILL TURN BAD IN 1988!**

**T**HE ROAD WARRIORS certainly don't fill the stereotype of a fan favorite tag team. Renowned for their abilities to terrorize opponents and inflict mayhem, their goal is to steamroll over all obstacles for monetary gain and personal glory with no regard for whom they hurt. The Warriors are vicious brawlers who, for the most part, ignore the respected rules of professional wrestling.

Yes, they're dangerous. Yes, they're muscular monsters. Yes, their makeup and spiked leather outfits are enough to scare the living daylights out of any opponent.

And yes, they're going to return to their natural rulebreaking habitat. From all indications, the change will come in 1988 as the Warriors rejoin such sadistic, fan-hated criminals as The Shepherders, The Four Horsemen, and The Midnight Express.

When you see what's about to hap-



Road Warrior Hawk press slams Tully Blanchard (above left) and Ric Flair (above right), two of The Four Horsemen whom the Warriors hate so violently. Experts forecast that the Warriors themselves soon may become as hated as the Horsemen.

**Vicious, sadistic villains with little regard for rules, The Road Warriors are paradoxically the most popular tag team in wrestling. But the Warriors' popularity has kept them from winning the NWA World tag team title. Are they ready to turn their backs on the fans?**

pen to Animal and Hawk, you're not going to like them anymore.

"From what I can tell, Animal and Hawk are fed up," said *The Wrestler* Senior Editor Bill Apter. "They've seen everybody get shots at the NWA World tag team title—everybody except them. It's frustrating, because they're a three-time Tag Team of the Year and they're constantly number one in the tag team ratings. The Warriors won't have to change their style at all to become so-called rulebreakers. They're already more vicious than any fan favorite team I can think of. I think they're about to take drastic action."

Hints of drastic action have been popping up for a long time. Last year, prior to a National Wrestling Federation card in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Hawk told Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum, "We're sick of hearing the fans cheering us. We never asked them to like us, and besides, if they're



Hawk double-clotheslines Flair and Lex Luger. Perhaps if the Warriors turn bad again, they'll get more shots at the tag team title.

cheering us, we must be doing something wrong. Maybe we're not violent enough."

Animal agreed. "Back when we were in the AWA, there was a time when the fans hated us," he said. "Man, they were scared to death of us, and we liked it that way. You look at the teams that the fans like: The Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Fantastics—wimp teams, every one of them. We don't listen to no rock 'n' roll music when we're working, and we don't want anybody thinking that we're a couple of pretty boys."

One problem is that Paul Ellering, manager of The Road Warriors, would like Animal and Hawk to retain their good standing with the fans. "It's economic good sense to have the fans like you," said Ellering, "both from a merchandising and a contractual standpoint. People buy 'Legion of Doom' T-shirts and souvenirs, but do you think they would if they didn't like them? The way I see it, we have the best of both worlds. The Warriors are a vicious, aggressive team that wrestles like rulebreakers, but the fans like them anyway."

Ellering concedes, however, that having the NWA World tag team title would increase the Warriors' value far beyond any value popularity alone could provide. "That is true," said Ellering, a world-renowned financial genius. "If you look at the sport as a whole, the richest men are the world champions. And I do agree that we're being given a raw deal by the promoters. You know why they don't give us title shots? Because we're already incredibly popular, even without the belts. Popularity breeds ticket sales, and that's what the promoters want. But a team reaches the point where monetary gain is secondary and professional gain becomes the goal. You take it from there."

What could the Warriors do to get on the bad side of the fans and promoters?

"There's only one thing they *can* do," points out Assistant Editor Eddie Ellner, "and that's attack The Rock 'n' Roll Express or Nikita and Dusty.



Stan Lane tries to slam Animal, with little success. The Warriors are irked because their International tag team title receives less respect than The Midnight Express' U.S. tag belts.

The fans seems to have this mystical attachment to [Rick] Morton and [Robert] Gibson, so there's no way they'd put up with anybody—including the Warriors—attacking them. If they attacked Dusty and Nikita, that would be even worse, because they've teamed with them so many times. That would be the ultimate turn. Personally, I'm looking forward to it because I think it's going to happen."

Ellner's case for a quick attack is unlikely, because in addition to being viciously fierce, the Warriors are also fiercely loyal to their friends, and that includes six-man partner Dusty. But if such a turn does ultimately take place, it will no doubt come about due to sheer frustration. The Warriors haven't held a world championship since September 1985, when they lost the AWA belts to Jim Garvin and Steve Regal after holding them for 13 months. The NWA six-man championship is rarely

defended. And the All-Japan International tag team title they hold carries little weight in this country.

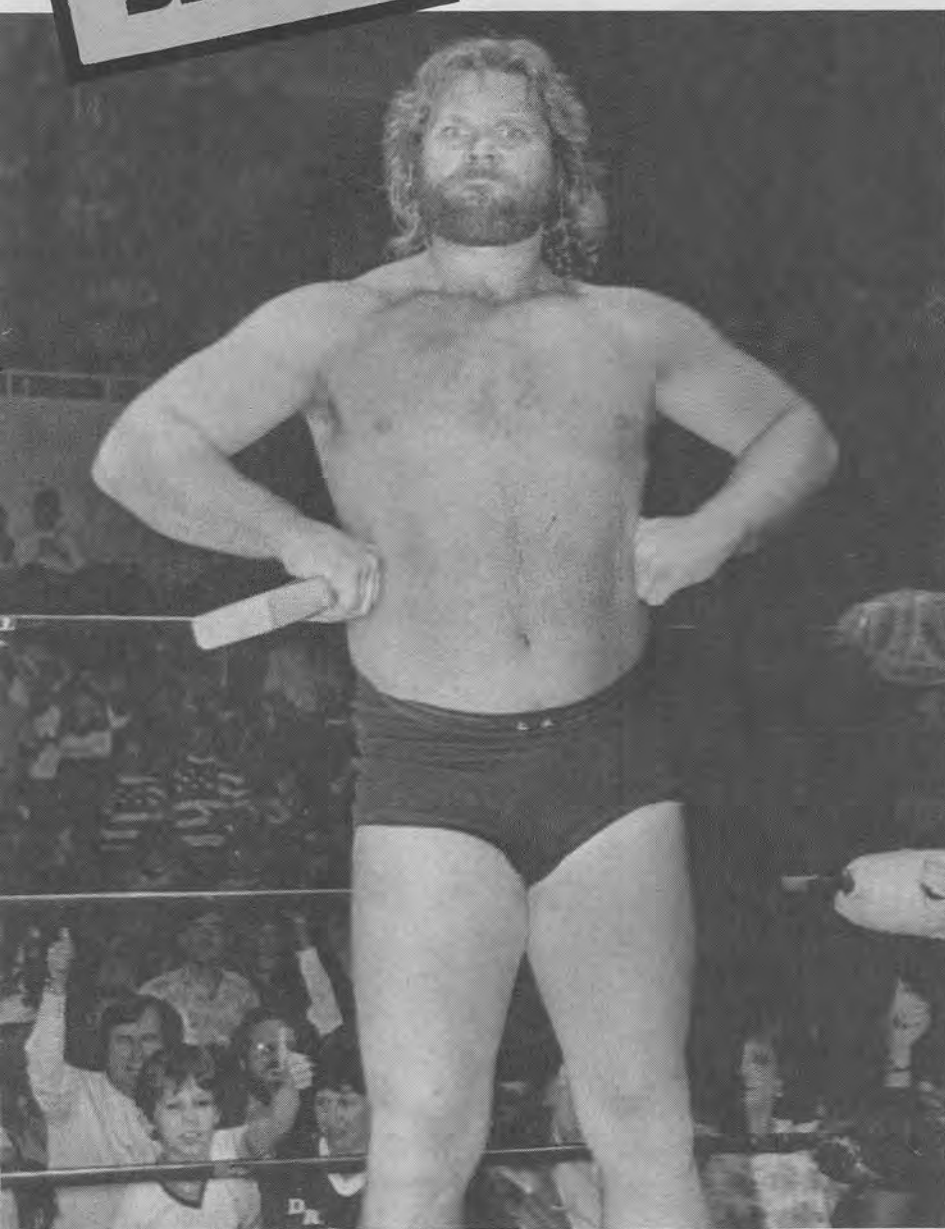
"They have nothing to lose because, in reality, they don't have anything," said Managing Editor Craig Peters. "They're popular, but they thrive on more than just popularity. I keep thinking back to how everyone used to talk about how the fans' cheers would ruin the team, that they'd get soft, that they wouldn't have the same kind of ferocious nature. Ellering said it was nonsense, that people were jealous because the Warriors were so awesome. I just don't know. Now that I think about it, maybe there's enough evidence to argue that it's become true."

It is often said that the only steady and certain quality about professional wrestling is change. It's been more than two years that the Warriors have been without a world tag team title. The time for change has arrived. □

**One-Night  
War With  
Ted  
DiBiase:**

# **HACKSAW DUGGAN RETURNS TO THE WWF**

## ***BUT FOR HOW LONG?***



THE RETIREMENT BASH held to honor Paul Boesch at the Sam Houston Coliseum on August 28 was notable for a variety of reasons. It honored one of the most respected men in the sport; it reunited a wide variety of wrestlers and promoters who, in many cases, hadn't seen each other in nearly a decade (the presence of non-WWF wrestlers on a WWF card was a unique sight); and it featured the return to the WWF of one of the sport's most controversial wrestlers: "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan.

The return of Duggan was, for many, the most surprising event of the evening. Following Duggan's May arrest for possession of marijuana and his subsequent suspension, it was questionable whether Duggan would return to the WWF. While many observers felt that Duggan's offense did not merit his suspension from WWF rings, others strongly felt that an example had to be made in order to help save wrestling from the drug stigma that has recently plagued baseball, football, and basketball.

The question of Duggan's return was answered conclusively when the familiar bearded figure emerged from a Sam Houston Coliseum dressing room, his trusty two-by-four in hand. And the fans seemed to be in a forgiving mood—they gave Duggan a rousing ovation.

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**When "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan was suspended from the WWF following his arrest for marijuana possession, many fans thought that the career of one of the sport's most exciting grapplers had gone up in smoke. Now, like the phoenix that rises from its ashes, Duggan has returned—but will it last?**



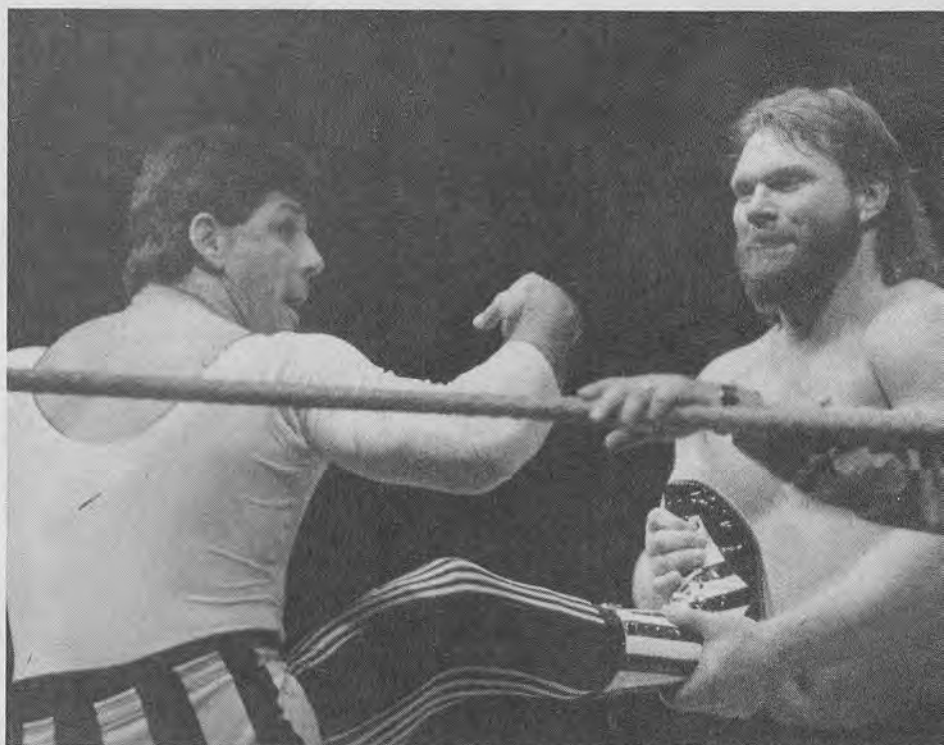
In their first-ever WWF encounter, Ted DiBiase chops Hacksaw Duggan (above left), who picks him up for a slam (above center) and gives him an atomic drop (above right). DiBiase is certainly a tougher opponent than Danny Davis, who is caught in Duggan's grasp (below).

But the hardest part of Duggan's comeback was yet to come. His opponent that night was none other than "The Million-Dollar Man," Ted DiBiase. Ironically, Duggan had both teamed with and feuded with DiBiase when both men were competing in the UWF—and wrestling on UWF cards in the Sam Houston Coliseum.

Since then, however, DiBiase has undergone an almost total transformation. The one-time consummate scientific wrestler, admired by fans for his relatively modest personality, has let the riches that he earned upon joining the WWF go to his head. Constantly repeating his affirmation that "everyone has their price," DiBiase has raised bribery to a fine art.

DiBiase was in fine form that night, grabbing the microphone to launch an insulting monologue against the Houston economy and promising one young man \$300 to sing "The Yellow Rose Of Texas." When DiBiase reneged, on the deal after the young man had belted out a halting version of the song, the crowd's hatred took on a new dimension of intensity.

So when Duggan came to the ring, the fans were cheering not only his return from his suspension, but also his impending thrashing of "The Million-Dollar Man."



It was easily the best match on the card. The first two minutes featured non-stop action that saw both men exchanging scientific moves and maneuvers with blinding speed. Former tag team partners, DiBiase and Duggan are well-acquainted with each other's styles, which made defense in the match a difficult element for both men.

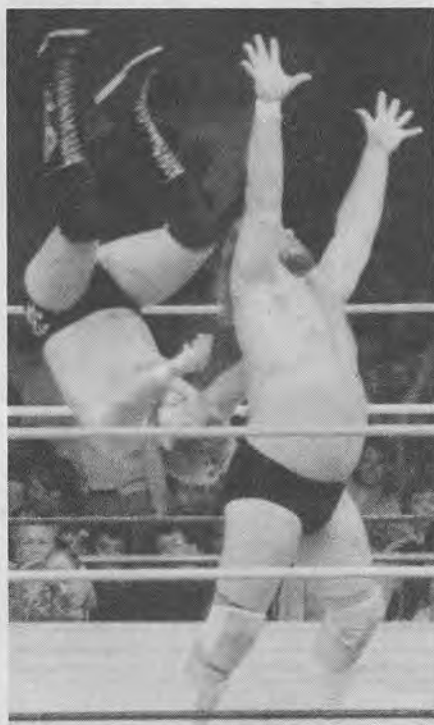
Yet the long layoff from the ring was to haunt Duggan, who became noticeably tired while DiBiase remained

fresh. "The Million Dollar Man" did not miss a golden opportunity to elbowsmash Duggan, catching "Hack-saw" by surprise as he jumped from the second turnbuckle. DiBiase then shocked the sellout crowd by cleanly pinning Duggan; the hush that settled upon the arena might well have been perceived all the way to Dallas.

As a crestfallen Duggan made his way back to the dressing room, the fans once again erupted in cheers.



Duggan slams DiBiase (above) and backdrops him (below). "The Million Dollar Man" looks to be headed toward another feud with "Hacksaw."



While Duggan may not have scored the win, he nevertheless won a moral victory that night. It's the first step on the comeback trail that's always the hardest.

But Duggan still has a long and difficult road ahead. While most of the fans may have welcomed him back, he still may be stigmatized in the eyes of some fans and promoters. Duggan is the kind of wrestler whose best efforts come when he feels the crowd is solid-

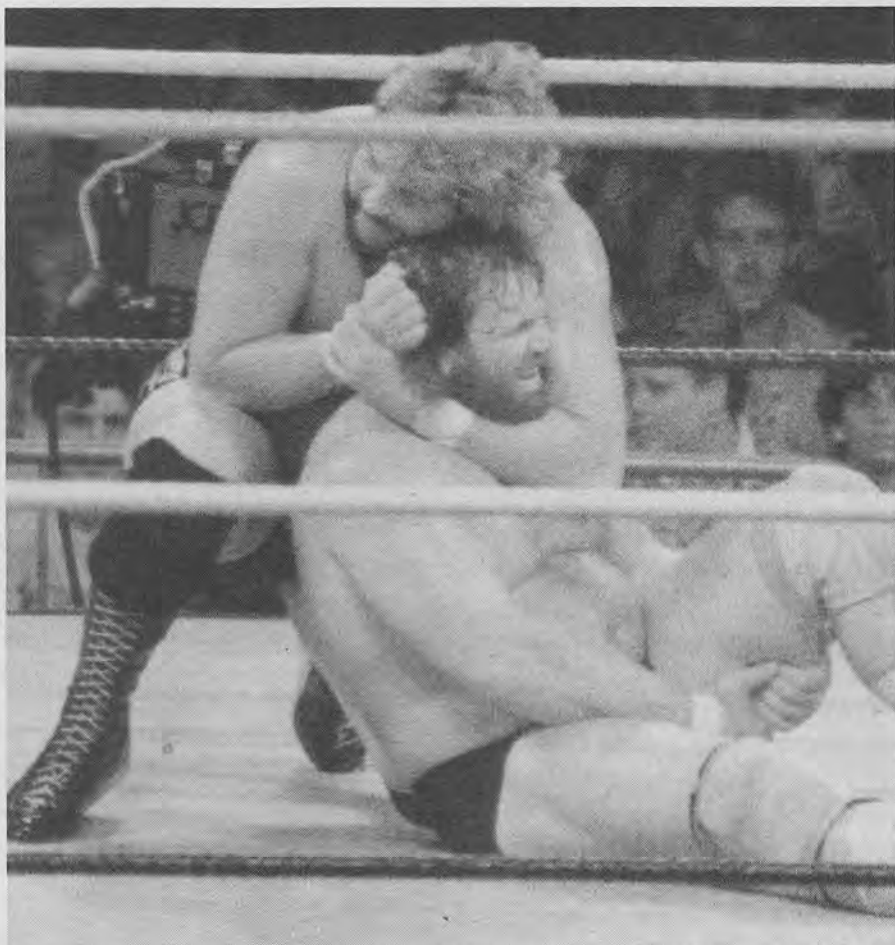
ly behind him; if the crowd turns indifferent—or even hostile—then Duggan's career is in trouble.

There is evidence that WWF promoters are rethinking whether to allow Duggan to continue to face top-level opposition. Shortly after the Houston card, Duggan wrestled in Nassau Coliseum on Long Island. His opponent was Danny Davis, hardly a top-rated athlete.

shuffle.

Should the WWF scene prove slow in changing for "Hacksaw," he might opt to switch promotions. No doubt his first choice in such a decision would be to return to the UWF, where he has enjoyed enormous success and popularity in the past.

But recent events have proven that Duggan, while a great wrestler, is hardly a superman; he's just an ordinary



DiBiase chinlocks Duggan, who seems more concerned about the condition of his leg. The intensity of their match obscures the fact that Duggan and DiBiase were once tag team partners. But Duggan will have nothing to do with the "new" DiBiase.

Duggan, while back in WWF rings, is on a very thin match schedule. He hasn't appeared at WWF television tapings in some time, and most of the major cards around the country find Duggan's name missing from the match roster. When he does wrestle, it's against someone like Danny Davis—a bottom-level "star" in the WWF.

Something has got to change. The WWF will either have to upgrade Duggan's match schedule, or Duggan will begin to look elsewhere. His pride will not allow him to remain just another WWF mid-level grappler lost in the

human being with his share of athletic strengths and human weaknesses. His strengths, however, have always outweighed his weaknesses, and if Duggan can mount a successful comeback he will have scored an important victory. That comeback, though, depends on more than himself—it depends on the amount of faith that promoters and officials in the WWF are willing to have in him. Without that faith, Duggan's comeback will fail.

Sometimes the toughest foes are those that must be overcome before one can climb into the ring. □

# A Spectacular Contest:

# WIN

***It's the opportunity of a lifetime! A lucky Wrestler reader will win a "Wrestling Dream Cruise" for two—but hurry! To be eligible, all entries must be postmarked by December 1, 1987!***

**T**HE SCHEDULE GOES something like this:

On Sunday, fly to Miami, where you'll board the Jubilee, a Carnival Cruise Lines SuperLiner.

On Monday, you'll spend the day at Nassau in the Bahamas.

On Tuesday, you'll cruise the ocean on the way to a Wednesday stop in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

On Thursday it's St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, and Friday and Saturday will be spent at sea on the way back to Miami on Sunday, where you'll be flown back home.

Not a bad way to spend a week for anybody. But for a wrestling fan it becomes all the more exciting, because also on the cruise will be wrestlers Jerry Lawler, Wendi Richter, Nick Bockwinkel, The Missing Link, Paul E. Dangerously, Ken Mantel, Red Bastien, and Bruiser Brody. *The Wrestler's* own Bill Apter and Craig Peters will be there, as will Gordon Solie, "The Walter Cronkite of Professional Wrestling," plus the staff of the syndicated *Pro Wrestling This Week*, including host Joe Pedicino, commentator Boni Blackstone, and producers Ken LaMorta and Tom Vardase. Capt. Lou Albano is trying to clear a Hollywood film shooting schedule to be there as well. And on



Gordon Solie and Joe Pedicino of *Pro Wrestling This Week* (above) and PWTW producer Tom Vardase and *The Wrestler's* Bill Apter (below) will be among those on a seven-day Caribbean "wrestling dream cruise" on the Jubilee (opposite page).



# A CARIBBEAN WRESTLING DREAM CRUISE FOR TWO!



Wednesday, you'll see a WWC card in Puerto Rico.

And *you* may be there! *The Wrestler*, in conjunction with *Pro Wrestling This Week*, is giving away a "Wrestling Dream Cruise" package for two, including airfare to and from Miami. The cruise will take place from February 7 through February 14, 1988.

The winner will stay in a stateroom for two on the Jubilee. The ship's facilities include three outdoor pools, several lounges and bars, a discotheque, children's playroom, gambling casino, electronic game room, shopping mall,

hairdresser, spa, and whirlpools.

Included in the cruise are three ports-of-call (Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands), eight meals and snacks a day, a welcome aboard rum swizzle party, Captain's cocktail party, Captain's farewell dinner, full range of entertainment including two nightclub shows each night at sea, three bands and orchestras, duty-free shopping, 24-hour stateroom service, and complimentary snack bar service.

What will the wrestling personalities be doing on the cruise?

Lawler will be social and enter-

tainment director, Richter will be aerobics instructor, Bockwinkel will be the men's exercise instructor, Missing Link will be head of a scavenger hunt, Dangerously (who was not invited but has bought out several cabins and the Presidential suite) says he plans to antagonize everyone on the ship, and Brody will be the athletic commissioner. Apter and Peters will tape several *PWI* "Press Conference" segments for the syndicated *Pro Wrestling This Week*, which is hosting the dream cruise, and segments for *PWTW* will also

(Continued on page 58)

# MATT BROCK'S



# LOOKING BACK

## August 1973 Bobby Shane vs. Jack Brisco

**T**HE PHONE WOKE me up early on the morning of February 20, 1975, a day I'll never forget. I was staying in a downtown Los Angeles hotel, trying to sleep off a little get-together with a bunch of local buddies from the night before. When the phone rang it was 5:30 a.m., naturally, I figured it was one of the guys playing a joke. But when I finally hung up the phone, I wasn't laughing. I was in shock.

The plane Bobby Shane was flying in went down in Hillsboro Bay in Tampa, Florida, at 1:20 that morning. Shane was on board Buddy Colt's four-passenger Cessna 182, and he was the only one of the four still missing. Colt, Mike McCord, and Gary Hart swam 300 yards to safety, but the whereabouts of Shane remained unknown. It was presumed that he was still in the plane, buried under water. Twelve hours later, Shane's body was found, still strapped in with the seat belt in the back seat. He was 39 years old.



Bobby Shane clamps a sleeper on then-NWA World champion Jack Brisco in a 1973 match in Atlanta. Brisco had little trouble retaining the title this night.

The four wrestlers were returning to Tampa after wrestling in Miami that evening when Colt, piloting the plane, missed the runway of Peter O. Knight Airport. It was a stormy evening. Colt later said that he could not see the airport and was about to descend at about 500 feet to look for it.

I had business in Los Angeles that day so I had to stick around and wait for phone calls to update me on the situation. Naturally, I couldn't fall asleep again that morning; Shane was one of wrestling's most colorful figures and I spent most of that day praying that he survived that horrible accident. I knew all along there wasn't much hope.

I remember a night two years prior to his death in Atlanta when Shane took on newly crowned NWA World champion Jack Brisco. In those days Shane was a rule-breaker and he came to the ring with his beautiful valet, Miss Sherry. Looking back, Shane was a lot like Jerry Lawler; he knew how to keep himself in the spotlight. Besides being a very fine athlete for his size—Shane was only 5'10"—he was a showman.

Shane hated Brisco and he made no secret of it in the dressing room before the match. "Brisco's no champion," said Shane. "I've been



Brisco armlocks Shane, who had a valet named Miss Sherry and was one of the more flamboyant wrestlers of his time. Shane was killed in a 1975 plane crash.

waiting for this opportunity for too long and I'm gonna show all you guys exactly what I'm made of. In just a little while, boys, you're gonna be talking to the new World champion."

Shane was arrogant, but he was also very wrong. Jack Brisco was at the peak of his career and nobody was going to beat him, although Shane certainly gave it a pretty good shot. Shane took control early and actually had Brisco on the run for a few minutes. But being a veteran of the mat wars, I can usually sense when a challenger has the champ's number; that night, I had a feeling that nothing was going to happen.

The workmanlike Brisco slowly came back. Before long, Shane was on the run. He was starting to show his years while Brisco looked fresh. Finally, Brisco took care of Shane and returned to the dressing room with the belt still around his waist.

That didn't shake Shane, though. Later on, with a crowd of reporters surrounding him, Shane told us how he had been cheated by the

referee and was on the verge of winning the belt. "That was just a warmup, fellas," he said. "Next time, I'm going for the jugular."

After about 20 minutes of Shane's nonsense, all the reporters left. All except me. Shane didn't realize I was still standing there and he started changing into his street clothes. Finally, he turned around and saw me slumped down in a seat. "Hey, you there," Shane shouted, "what the heck are you doing sneaking around behind me?" I got up out of the chair and Shane finally realized it was me. "Sorry, Matt," he said. "I thought you were some snot-nosed cub reporter."

Bobby and I talked for a few minutes and then decided to go catch some dinner and a few drinks. That evening we talked for about an hour, and the subject of wrestling never came up. Shane may have been flamboyant in the ring and a real loudmouth, but he was also a very intelligent guy.

I only saw Bobby once or twice more after that. On the morning of his death, I wished it could've been more. □



Brisco tries to catch Shane in an abdominal stretch. Shane intensely hated Brisco.

# Wrestler<sup>THE</sup>



Randy Savage

## TOP 10

- 1 HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA  
WWF World champion
- 2 RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec  
NWA World champion
- 3 RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN  
No. 1 contender to NWA World title
- 4 LEX LUGER**  
268, Chicago, IL  
U.S. heavyweight champion
- 5 STEVE WILLIAMS**  
265, Norman, OK  
UWF heavyweight champion
- 6 BARRY WINDHAM**  
236, Sweetwater, TX  
Western States champion
- 7 NIKITA KOLOFF**  
275, Moscow, Russia  
NWA TV champion
- 8 CURT HENNIG**  
235, Minneapolis, MN  
AWA World champion
- 9 RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL  
No. 1 contender to WWF I-C title
- 10 AL PEREZ**  
238, Tampa, FL  
World Class heavyweight champion

## TAG TEAMS

- 1 THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
Combined weight: 567 pounds  
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
- 2 BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**  
Combined weight: 515 pounds  
WWF World tag team champions
- 3 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**  
Combined weight: 484 pounds  
NWA World tag team champions
- 4 BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE**  
Combined weight: 453 pounds  
U.S. tag team champions
- 5 RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA**  
Combined weight: 489 pounds  
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 6 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**  
Combined weight: 453 pounds  
No. 1 contender to NWA tag team title
- 7 THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**  
Combined weight: 461 pounds  
No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 8 TIM HORNER & BRAD ARMSTRONG**  
Combined weight: 461 pounds  
UWF tag team champions
- 9 SHAUN & STEVE SIMPSON**  
Combined weight: 430 pounds  
World Class tag team champions
- 10 DINO BRAVO & GREG VALENTINE**  
Combined weight: 493 pounds  
No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title

## NWA

**World Champion:**  
**RONNIE GARVIN**

231, Montreal, Quebec

- 1—RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—LEX LUGER**  
268, Chicago, IL
- 3—NIKITA KOLOFF**  
275, Moscow, Russia
- 4—DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 5—TULLY BLANCHARD**  
235, San Antonio, TX
- 6—BARRY WINDHAM**  
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—BUBBA ROGERS**  
348, Louisville, KY
- 8—JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 9—MIKE ROTUNDO**  
245, Syracuse, NY
- 10—CARLOS COLON**  
246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico

## AWA

**World Champion:**  
**CURT HENNIG**

235, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—GREG GAGNE**  
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—WAHOO McDANIEL**  
260, Midland, TX
- 3—NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 4—TOMMY RICH**  
242, Hendersonville, TN
- 5—JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN
- 6—LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 7—KEVIN KELLY**  
271, Oakland, CA
- 8—D.J. PETERSON**  
245, St. Joseph, MO
- 9—ADRIAN ADONIS**  
312, New York, NY
- 10—BUDDY LANDELL**  
236, Los Angeles, CA

## WWF

**World Champion:**  
**HULK HOGAN**

302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—THE HONKY TONK MAN**  
255, Memphis, TN
- 2—RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—ONE MAN GANG**  
468, Chicago, IL
- 4—TED DiBIASE**  
247, Omaha, NB
- 5—BAM BAM BIGELOW**  
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 6—RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**  
273, San Francisco, CA
- 8—PAUL ORNDORFF**  
253, Brandon, FL
- 9—RICK STEAMBOAT**  
238, Honolulu, HI
- 10—JUNKYARD DOG**  
260, New Orleans, LA

## UWF

**UWF Champion:**  
**STEVE WILLIAMS**

265, Norman, OK

- 1—BARRY WINDHAM**  
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 2—BLACK BART**  
261, Pampa, TX
- 3—BIG BUBBA ROGERS**  
348, Louisville, KY
- 4—TERRY TAYLOR**  
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 5—EDDIE GILBERT**  
222, Lexington, KY
- 6—STING**  
270, parts unknown
- 7—RICK STEINER**  
248, Detroit, MI
- 8—SHANE DOUGLAS**  
223, Pittsburgh, PA
- 9—DICK MURDOCH**  
270, Waxahachie, TX
- 10—DORY FUNK JR.**  
240, Amarillo, TX

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

## MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA  
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX  
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL  
Last month: unrated
- 4 STEVE WILLIAMS**  
265, Norman, OK  
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5 RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec  
Last month: unrated
- 6 NIKITA KOLOFF**  
275, Moscow, Russia  
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 7 BARRY WINDHAM**  
236, Sweetwater, TX  
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 8 BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**  
273, San Francisco, CA  
Last month: unrated
- 9 KEVIN VON ERICH**  
235, Denton, TX  
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
- 10 JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN  
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular

## MOST HATED

- 1 THE HONKY TONK MAN**  
255, Memphis, TN  
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 2 LEX LUGER**  
268, Chicago, IL  
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 3 RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN  
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 4 TULLY BLANCHARD**  
235, San Antonio, TX  
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5 LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
248, Pittsburgh, PA  
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 6 CURT HENNIG**  
235, Minneapolis, MN  
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- 7 TED DIBIASE**  
247, Omaha, NB  
Last month: unrated
- 8 ONE MAN GANG**  
468, Chicago, IL  
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- 9 AL PEREZ**  
238, Tampa, FL  
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated
- 10 TERRY TAYLOR**  
225, Vero Beach, FL  
Last month: unrated

For period ended September 30, 1987

## WORLD CHAMP.

**U.S. Champion:**  
**LEX LUGER**

- 268, Chicago, IL
- 1—DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
  - 2—NIKITA KOLOFF**  
275, Moscow, Russia
  - 3—RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
  - 4—TULLY BLANCHARD**  
235, San Antonio, TX
  - 5—BARRY WINDHAM**  
236, Sweetwater, TX
  - 6—JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL
  - 7—ARN ANDERSON**  
249, Minneapolis, MN
  - 8—KEVIN SULLIVAN**  
252, Boston, MA
  - 9—LAZOR-TRON**  
220, parts unknown
  - 10—KONGA THE BARBARIAN**  
265, Chicago, IL

## WORLD CLASS

**World Class Champion:**  
**AL PEREZ**

- 238, Tampa, FL
- 1—KEVIN VON ERICH**  
235, Denton, TX
  - 2—TED ARCIDI**  
300, Boston, MA
  - 3—BRIAN ADIAS**  
238, Denton, TX
  - 4—TONY ATLAS**  
247, Roanoke, VA
  - 5—ERIC EMBRY**  
225, Lexington, KY
  - 6—MATT BORNE**  
235, Portland, OR
  - 7—STEVE SIMPSON**  
230, Johannesburg, South Africa
  - 8—THE IRON SHEIK**  
262, Teheran, Iran
  - 9—SHAUN SIMPSON**  
200, Johannesburg, South Africa
  - 10—AL MADRID**  
231, Los Angeles, CA

## FLORIDA

**Florida Champion:**  
**MIKE ROTUNDO**  
245, Syracuse, NY

- 1—DORY FUNK JR.**  
240, Amarillo, TX
- 2—KEVIN SULLIVAN**  
252, Boston, MA
- 3—MIKE GRAHAM**  
232, Tampa, FL
- 4—BUGSY MCGRAW**  
268, New York, NY
- 5—TERRY FUNK**  
241, Amarillo, TX
- 6—TEIJO KHAN**  
232, Singapore
- 7—STEVE KEIRN**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 8—RON SIMMONS**  
260, Perry, GA
- 9—LAZOR-TRON**  
220, parts unknown
- 10—MIGHTY YANKEE I**  
235, parts unknown

## MID-SOUTHERN

**AWA Southern Champion:**  
**JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN

- 1—DON BASS**  
230, Memphis, TN
- 2—BILL DUNDEE**  
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 3—GEORGE BARNES**  
225, Melbourne, Australia
- 4—BOBBY JAGGERS**  
275, Dunlap, KS
- 5—CARL FERGIE**  
230, Memphis, TN
- 6—JEFF JARRETT**  
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 7—PAT TANAKA**  
265, Honolulu, HI
- 8—PAUL DIAMOND**  
235, Thunder Bay, Ont.
- 9—SUPERSTAR BUBBA**  
407, San Antonio, TX
- 10—BILLY TRAVIS**  
218, Houston, TX

## CONTINENTAL

**Continental Champion:**  
**TITLE VACANT**  
(Decision pending by CCW)

- 1—WENDELL COOLEY**  
220, Milton, FL
- 2—DUTCH MANTEL**  
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 3—DOUG FURNAS**  
265, Commerce, OK
- 4—THE BULLET**  
234, parts unknown
- 5—SCOTT ARMSTRONG**  
225, Marietta, GA
- 6—TOM PRITCHARD**  
220, Houston, TX
- 7—STEVE ARMSTRONG**  
235, Marietta, GA
- 8—LARRY HAMILTON**  
232, Tampa, FL
- 9—JONATHAN BOYD**  
240, New Zealand
- 10—ROBERT FULLER**  
238, Dyresburg, TN

## WOMEN

- 1—SHERRI MARTEL**  
WWF women's champion
- 2—MISTY BLUE SIMMES**  
NWA U.S. women's champion
- 3—LELANI KAI**  
All-Pacific women's champion
- 4—WENDI RICHTER**  
WWC women's champion
- 5—THE FABULOUS MOOLAH**  
No. 1 contender to WWF title
- 6—VELVET MCINTYRE**  
No. 2 contender to WWF title
- 7—LINDA DALLAS**  
No. 1 contender to U.S. title
- 8—KAT LEROUX**  
No. 2 contender to U.S. title
- 9—MEDUSA MICELLI**  
No. 1 cont. to vacant AWA title
- 10—CANDI DEVINE**  
No. 2 cont. to vacant AWA title

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

*Imagine there's no number one.* And keep on imagining, because *somebody* has to be on top. But if we had a choice this month, we'd start our Top 10 ratings with number two, because in reality *nobody* really deserves the top spot. **Ric Flair** had been number one since October 1987, but losing the NWA World championship to **Ronnie Garvin** on September 25 in Detroit took care of that. Garvin, on the other hand, hasn't been champion long enough to be number one. Meanwhile, WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan** has been unimpressive in a series of title defenses against **One Man Gang**.



Hulk Hogan

"The Hulkster," however, was the top man before Flair took over number one, and now he's top man again. He didn't lose one match during the ratings period (although he didn't win too many, either) and he rated high on quality of opposition; remember, **One Man Gang** is a former UWF heavyweight champion. "Hogan has earned the benefit of the doubt," said Managing Editor Craig Peters. "Four years as World champion is very impressive."

With his stunning loss to Garvin, Flair dropped to number three, which isn't too shabby. Remember, the last time Flair lost the belt (to **Dusty Rhodes** in July 1986), he dropped to number seven in the ratings. "At the time, there were a lot of hot wrestlers in the sport and Flair was in a slump," pointed out Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks. "Flair is still wrestling well right now. Remember, he lost to a very strong opponent."

Garvin, unranked last month, rose all the way to number two, the same spot Rhodes took over when he won the title. The editorial board felt that it was not proper for Garvin to jump all the way to number one and, as Saks pointed out, "he doesn't deserve it yet. Like all other champions, Garvin will have to prove himself."

There was some campaigning for U.S. champion **Lex Luger** to take over the number one position. "Luger is the dominant figure in wrestling right now," said Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum. "He's U.S. champion, he destroyed **Nikita Koloff**, and he'll probably have no trouble with Garvin once he starts getting title shots." The decision to keep Luger at number four was made because he doesn't have a world title. "The top spot really should be reserved for a world champion," said Peters.

**Savage lovers.** Four months ago, he was second in the "Most Hated" ratings. Now, riding a wave of popularity started by his war with Intercontinental champion **The Honky Tonk Man**, "Macho Man" **Randy Savage** has risen to number three in the "Most Popular" ratings, behind only **Hulk Hogan** and **Dusty Rhodes**.

This turnaround is nothing less than startling. Have the fans already forgiven Savage for trying to end the career of **Rick Steamboat**? Have they forgotten Savage's vicious assault on Steamboat at **WrestleMania III**? And have they forgotten the way Savage treated

his beautiful manager, **Elizabeth**?

Well, it seems as if the fans hate **The Honky Tonk Man** more than they ever hated Savage. And Savage is treating Elizabeth much nicer these days. In fact, he's even holding the ring ropes open for her! Savage is certainly one of the most brilliant athletes in wrestling, and the fans are finally starting to take notice. In some areas of the country, correspondents have reported that Savage is getting more applause than Hogan!

Savage's popularity was confirmed at the September 23 taping of *Saturday Night's Main Event* in Hershey, Pennsylvania, when he and Elizabeth joined hands with Hogan in the center of the ring. It was an incredible moment, one most wrestling fans probably thought they'd never see.

"I doubted Savage for a while, but when I saw him with Hogan, that did it for me," said Alan Stone of Philadelphia. "Hogan's my favorite, and if he thinks Savage is okay, then he's okay by me. I guess Savage has changed a lot over the past year, and he's treating Elizabeth a lot nicer. I still don't forgive him for hurting Steamboat so badly, but I guess time heals all wounds."

Is Savage headed to the top spot in the "Most Popular" ratings? It's possible. Savage is a much more exciting wrestler than Hogan, and his recent postmatch displays have proven that he's just as charismatic. The "Macho Man" also wrestles more often than Hogan, so he has more opportunities to increase his popularity.

Meanwhile, **Dusty Rhodes** is caught in the middle and might actually become the beneficiary of this WWF popularity war. Rhodes is undoubtedly the most popular wrestler in the NWA and could become the most popular wrestler in the world should the fans split their allegiance between Hogan and Savage.

The next few months should be interesting, both in the "Most Popular" and Top 10 ratings. Wrestling is in a transitional phase right now and with the red-hot winter and spring months coming up, things could change rapidly.

**This month ... women!** And 10 of them! Women's wrestling has indeed enjoyed a resurgence of popularity over the past year, led by new WWF women's champion **Sherri Martel**, who has brought that title back into the spotlight since unseating **Fabulous Moolah**. This month, our revolving ratings category features the best female grapplers in North America. You might recall that the women's rankings were originally removed from the ratings pages to make room for the revolving category. Now they're back—but only for this issue.

**What's your opinion?** Who should be number one in the Top 10 ratings? Does **Ronnie Garvin** deserve the top spot? Who's the most popular wrestler in the world? Do you like Savage more than Hogan? We'd like to know. In fact, we *must* know—it's how we compile our ratings. Send those comments to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *The Wrestler*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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## YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

Agency," said Ventura. "At the time, he was recovering from some minor surgery, and this was when I was co-hosting *Prime Time Wrestling* with Gorilla [Monsoon] on the USA cable network. Barry was lying in bed watching me hosting with Gorilla and he just felt I had that something special, he felt there was a charisma there, that there was an underlying Hollywood star that just needed to be found and brought to the surface, and so Barry then got in contact with me. He had been an agent for 9½ years, so he had a certain amount of connections in the film industry."

\*\*\*

Q: "I have a question for Steve Williams: Why don't you go to the WWF and talk your friend Ted DiBiase out of becoming a rule-breaker? He acts like he owns everybody with his money."—Eric Ore, South Jersey, NJ

A: "What Ted does is his own business, that's why," answered "Dr. Death." "Once he got out of the UWF, I don't have anything to do with him anymore. Listen, Eric, Ted's always been a strange one, and he's never stayed a rulebreaker or fan favorite for very long. Personally, I think all this money's gone to his head and he's forgotten



Ted DiBiase and Steve Williams were partners in the UWF long before DiBiase left for the WWF. Williams says he doesn't care about DiBiase anymore.

about why we're all here in the first place: to wrestle and win championships. Right now, I don't think I could talk Ted out of anything. Somebody's just gonna have to knock some sense into his head."

\*\*\*

Q: "I have a question for Jim Cornette: How do you feel about the AWA making Dennis Condrey and Randy Rose 'The Original Midnight Express?' I think it is the stupidest thing. Imagine copying the greatest tag team in the world! You will be NWA World champs again before Christmas. I guarantee it!"—Kenny Prince, Marian, SC

A: "You're a smart man, Kenny," replied Cornette, "and I, too, guarantee that Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane, the one and only Midnight Express, will have those NWA



Jim Cornette guarantees that his Midnight Express will win the NWA World tag team title before the end of the year. He also calls Dennis Condrey "a loser."

World tag team title belts strapped securely around their waists well before Christmas. If Condrey wants to make a fool out of himself by calling that pure excuse for a tag team 'The Original Midnight Express,' let him go ahead and do it. Condrey is a loser, and that's why me and momma had to get rid of him. He was holding us back and he's only gonna make the AWA look even stupider." □

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## KOLOFF VS. TAYLOR

(Continued from page 31)

bouts, only one man has something to lose. The champion must defend his title carefully and do everything in his power to protect the belt. The challenger can utilize an all-out style and not worry about making mistakes. Title vs. title matches, however, are a test of two men with everything to lose ... and everything to gain.

"It was one of the most challenging tests of my life," said Flair of his 1982 match against Backlund, which ended in a double-countout. "Not only was I defending the title, but I was defending everything I had gained. If I lost to Backlund, everybody would've said that the challengers he beat were better than mine. I know I can beat any wrestler in the world, but I'm glad we didn't have to do that again."

Koloff, who Crockett called one of the most active TV champions in NWA history, is looking forward to the match against Taylor. "I will beat any man in the world with my bare hands," said the popular Russian superstar. "I have heard what Taylor and [Eddie] Gilbert say, and



Taylor (pummeling Sting) must rely on his scientific skills to beat Koloff.

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Koloff prepares to throw Arn Anderson off the top rope. The powerful Russian is confident that he would have no problem against Taylor.

they will pay for it. I will bring UWF title back to NWA and be only champion of TV."

Taylor, a 225-pounder, figures to have his hands full with Koloff, a 275-pound muscleman with incredible power and determination. Taylor is a veteran who has spent most of his career as a soft-spoken fan favorite, but a stunning turn of events earlier in the year brought him to Gilbert's camp of rulebreakers. That change of heart, however, didn't make Taylor any larger. And while Gilbert is always there to lend a helping hand, Taylor usually relies on his scientific skills.

In his brief career, Koloff has taken on some of the giants of wrestling. Last year at Starrcade, Koloff was disqualified in a memorable battle against Flair. This past summer, Nikita engaged in a vicious feud against 1986 Rookie of the Year Lex Luger before finally losing his U.S. title. "I have wrestled against greatest wrestlers in world," boasted Nikita. "I will have no trouble with little Taylor."

(Continued on page 52)

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## KOLOFF VS. TAYLOR

(Continued from page 51)



Taylor picks Chris Adams, his former partner, up off the mat. Taylor was widely respected—until he turned on Adams and joined Eddie Gilbert's First Family.

Beneath the surface of this match, however, lies a classic battle between a supreme scientific wrestler and a powerhouse brawler. Would Bob Backlund have defeated Hulk Hogan? Could Kevin Von Erich defeat Road Warrior Hawk? And when you put a rulebreaker such as Gilbert behind Taylor, doesn't that make him even more dangerous?

"I will defeat Koloff because only one real wrestler will step into that ring at Starrcade and that's me," said Taylor. "He can punch and kick all he wants, but he's never gonna get me, because I can do what he can't. What do you think's gonna happen when this match gets down to pure wrestling skills? I'll tell you what: I'll have *both* belts strapped around my waist and he'll have nothing."

If Taylor's arrogance turns into genuine confidence, it could get him into trouble. Nikita Koloff has already won one title unification match. Number two is within reach.

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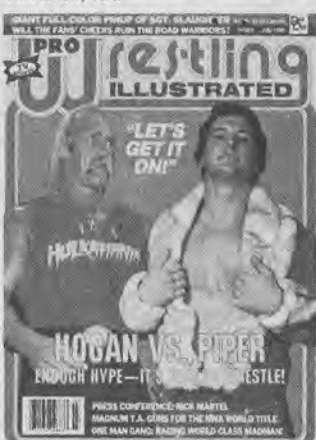
**November 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

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## JULY 1985

**July 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

**September 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

**October 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

**November 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.



## DECEMBER 1985

**December 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

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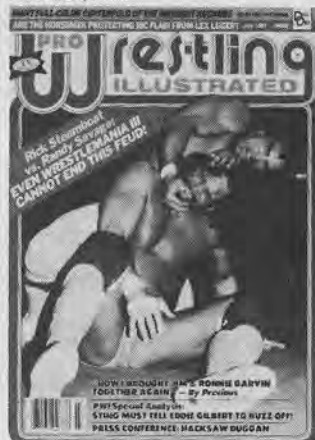
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## CURT HENNIG

(Continued from page 33)

Curt Hennig can wrestle.

"Put Curt Hennig on a college mat and he's a star," says Verne Gagne, Hennig's former mentor and now one of the rulebreaking champion's strongest detractors. "He hasn't developed professional skills. In many ways, he remains an amateur. Other wrestlers don't fear him. Without fear, there can be no respect."

But Gagne, a nine-time former AWA World champion, cannot help but recall Hennig's rookie campaign, when his promise and potential seemed ready to overwhelm an entire federation. "It was hard for me," Gagne remembers, "because in some ways I felt Curt had more skill than my son Greg. Curt was a natural ring tactician. Moves became instinct for him. He didn't have to work as hard as other wrestlers. But he barely progressed. Given the kind of rulebreaker his father was, we thought Curt would turn out bad. Instead he's turned out sad. Sad and shiftless."

After his controversial title victory over Nick Bockwinkel, in which a roll of coins and an assist from Larry Zbyszko raised questions about the legitimacy of Hennig's pinfall, Hennig answered his critics with silence. The silence turned to smugness as AWA officials reviewed the tapes of the match and declared that Zbyszko's interference in the match could not be conclusively proven, and that the title change would be allowed to stand. That's when the criticisms took on added intensity and became damning accusations. The primary accusation was that Hennig had traded in his clean reputation for a tainted title.

Hennig responded with measured arrogance. "People love to label you," he said recently. "For the rest of my career I'm supposed to be Curt Hennig, good guy? I'm supposed to toe the line and be a bedrock of society and a role model for children? Bull!

"You become brainwashed after a while. Why should I be taken advan-



Hennig mercilessly kicks Peterson. Before he resorted to rulebreaking, Hennig was known as a nice guy who was moderately successful. Now he has results, but has he lost his self-respect, and the respect of the fans, in the process?

tage of my whole career? The name of this game is *money*. Money, power, and fame. If you sit around with your thumb in your mouth, nothing good will ever happen. I got tired of others abusing the rules and getting ahead. Too many title shots went nowhere because I was unwilling to change my style.

"So I changed. It's that simple. And look what happened! I won the damn AWA World championship! Now I'm criticized for breaking the rules . . . as if it never happened before! To hell with the fans and the magazines. I'll succeed in spite of them. I don't need anyone."

Despite his rhetoric, his change in style, his considerable scientific skills, and his undeniable success, Hennig has been unable to garner any respect. Although he's yet to acknowledge it in public, the lack of respect rankles him.

"Don't let him kid you," Gagne says, "it burns Curt up. All his career he's wanted respect. Larry Hennig never won a world title, but every bar he's ever walked into people stopped and stared. In the ring he was feared. The old man was a rulebreaking s.o.b., but he was one of the toughest competitors in the sport. Curt worshipped his father. When he decided to become a scientific wrestler, Larry was very disappointed.

"I think Curt's recent change is an attempt to win his father's affection. It sounds strange, but I know it was important for *my* son. I supported Greg throughout his career, but ultimately he had to make it on his own. He had to succeed without me there to influence him. And he has succeeded without losing his integrity. It's kind of ironic that he's feuding with Curt now.

"Whether he admits it or not, Curt is a scientific wrestler. He's clearly uncomfortable in his new role. Until he discovers who he is, he will *never* be happy."

Perhaps. But for a scientific wrestler, Hennig has been conducting a campaign of terror that befits a veteran rulebreaker. In Las Vegas, he nearly took the side of Wahoo McDaniel's head off with what is increasingly becoming his trademark: a role of coins.

And each day, the latest in a long line of troubled AWA champions talks about quitting.

"I don't know if it's all worth it," Hennig says. "Everyone thinks they know you. Old man Gagne says he knows me. My dad thinks he knows me. The fans claim they know me. But no one knows a *damn* thing about me except *me*. I respect myself. I have no apologies. And as long as I can look at myself in the mirror and smile, I'm all right."



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

vin executed a flying bodypress off the ropes, but could only get a two-count. Time and again Garvin tried to put Flair away, but the champ wouldn't give in.

It finally ended when both men were on the top of the ropes chopping away at each other. Flair fell to the mat and Garvin set himself up for a flying bodypress. But Flair got up and Garvin executed a perfect sunset flip from the ropes. He covered Flair and referee **Tommy Young** made the three-count. A shocked Flair turned away as **Nikita Koloff**, **Dusty Rhodes**, **Rick Morton**, **Robert Gibson**, **Jim** and **David Crockett**, **Barry Windham**, and others came into the ring to congratulate the new NWA king.

**Manny Fernandez** is headed for the Mid-Southern area and has issued a challenge to AWA Southern champion **Jerry Lawler**... Top 40 singing star **Laura Branigan** is scheduled to make an appearance with **Capt. Lou Albano** at the Hamburg Fieldhouse in Pennsylvania on November 11. Branigan and Albano will co-manage **Samoan Afa** in a match against **Abdullah the Butcher**... Sadistic veteran **Larry Zbyszko** is said to be headed to the NWA.

**The RPMs** won the AWA Southern tag belts from **The Nasty Boys**... **Carlos Colon** regained the WWC Universal title from **Hercules**



Carlos Colon regained his Universal title from Hercules Ayala in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

**Ayala** in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Over 42,000 fans combined to attend this and two other shows running concurrently in Bayamon and Mayaguez and shown on closed-circuit TV in each.

Who would have ever thought **Hulk Hogan**, **Randy Savage**, and **Elizabeth** would join hands in the ring? In fact, who ever thought that, one day, the fans would be cheering the "Macho Man"? Things certainly have changed in the WWF, where all of this happened on the latest edition of *Saturday Night's Main Event*.

Savage was wrestling Intercontinental champion **The Honky Tonk**

Savage's head. Suddenly, Elizabeth ran out of the dressing room with Hogan. The crowd went wild as Hulk cleared the ring. Finally, Savage got up and the two former enemies shook hands. They embraced and, with the fans cheering wildly, joined hands with Elizabeth in the center of the ring.

**The Iron Sheik**, who was suspended by the WWF last spring after an arrest for drug possession, is now wrestling in the World Class area for manager **Gary Hart** ... **Wendell Cooley** announced that he has vacated the Continental title because he is embarrassed about his relationship with rule-



Gordon Solie waits to interview Wendell Cooley, who vacated the Continental title because he was embarrassed about his relationship with Jimmy Golden and Robert Fuller.

**Man** when **Jimmy Hart** climbed onto the ring apron and **The Hart Foundation** ran to ringside. Savage downed Hart with a punch and Honky Tonk stopped wrestling to carry his manager back to the dressing room. Suddenly, pandemonium broke loose. **Jim Neidhart**, **Brett Hart**, and Honky Tonk ganged up on Savage. While The Hart Foundation held Savage, Honky Tonk picked up his guitar and got ready to smash Savage's head.

Elizabeth ran into the ring, dropped to her knees, and pleaded with Honky Tonk not to hit Savage. But as she rose, Honky Tonk pushed her. Elizabeth ran to the dressing room as the Harts and Honky Tonk broke the guitar over

breakers **Jimmy Golden** and **Robert Fuller**. "I took their money and turned my back on the fans," said Cooley. "Now I'm not sure the fans can forgive me."

Finally, one very sad item to report. **Scott Irwin**, who wrestled in the NWA, WWF, AWA, and WCCW, died of a brain tumor on September 5 at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, Minnesota. Irwin, 35, was competing in the NWA in May 1986 when doctors told him that he had an inoperable cancerous brain tumor. He is survived by his brother **Bill**, mother **Owena** and his father **Donald**, his son **Zak**, and daughters **Michele** and **Keegan**.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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# DREAM CRUISE

(Continued from page 41)



Bruiser Brody (left) will be the cruise's athletic commissioner. Nick Bockwinkel and Jerry Lawler (right) will also be aboard.



Former WWF women's champ Wendi Richter will be aerobics instructor on the cruise. be taped by Solie, Pedicino, Vardase, LaMorta, and Blackstone.

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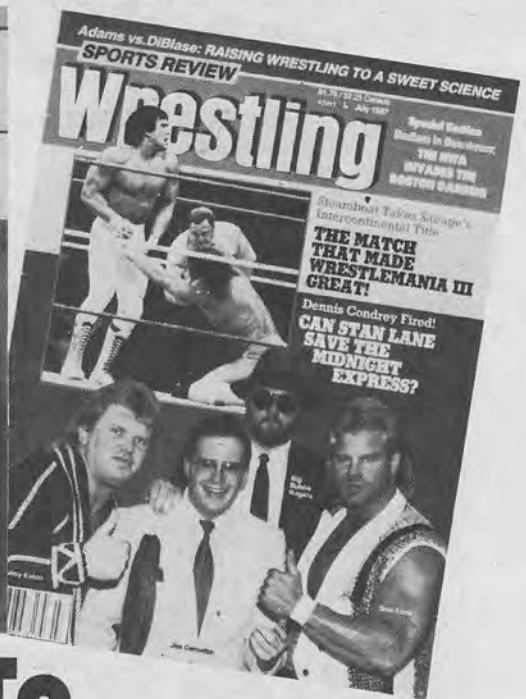
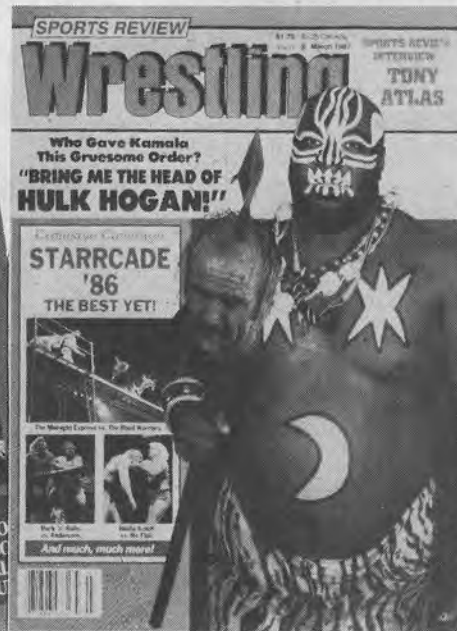
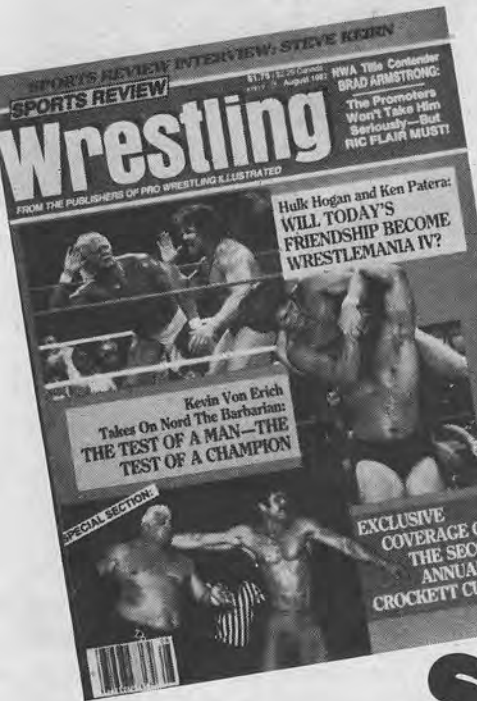
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## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)



Magnum T.A. (with Jim Ross) is a great athlete who will soon return to wrestling, writes Michele Boulier.

enough to have met his father, who goes to the Richmond Coliseum whenever Magnum is there.

In my opinion, Magnum will be wrestling again in the near future. I've noticed that some people have given up on him. I have kept up with Magnum ever since he entered the NWA, and I don't plan to stop. He's a great athlete and will overcome this obstacle. Magnum, if you read this, I just want to say I'm so glad you're back. I'm one fan who will never give up on you. You're the best and I love you.

MICHELE BOULIER  
Richmond, VA

### HE LIKES THE CIRCUS

I'm writing this letter in response to the letter entitled "The WWF Circus" by M.M. Roberts in the October 1987 issue of your magazine.

Mister or Mrs. or *whatever* Roberts wouldn't know good wrestling if it jumped up and bit him in the butt. He should get off Mr. McMahon's back, because while he is a lousy wrestling commentator, he breaks his back to bring us fans the best cards he can, both on television and in the arenas.

M.M. Roberts must have tunnel vision when he says that wrestling has been shoved aside in the WWF. Cases in point: Butch Reed vs. Koko

(Continued on page 62)

# THIS MONTH IN...

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## Inside Wrestling



Has **HULK HOGAN** finally become bored with the WWF title?



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## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 60)



Brutus Beefcake cuts Johnny V's hair. Rowf Steps sees nothing wrong with this or any of the other gimmicks employed by wrestlers in the WWF.

B. Ware at WrestleMania III, and Hulk Hogan (my favorite) vs. Bob Orton on Memorial Day weekend's *Saturday Night's Main Event*.

As for gimmicks, every wrestler seems to have one; they're a dime a dozen. Damien is an asset to Jake the Snake. There are no more hillbills in the WWF. And as for The Honky Tonk Man, he's not good enough to be called an Elvis Presley impersonator. And if M.M. Roberts meant to include Elizabeth under the "ugly girlfriend" category, then there's some bad eyesight at work there.

What's wrong with Brutus Beefcake being a barber? Some of the ugly heads wrestling in the WWF could use some cutting. The Killer Bees are very agile. And what's wrong with Lanny Poffo's poetry? I find it entertaining. Besides, it's good for a wrestler to have a second occupation.

About Bruno Sammartino: He's not called "The Living Legend" for noth-

ing. He's even wrestling again, thereby proving that he's in great shape for an older guy.

Roberts then made a "circus" remark, and said that we should turn to the NWA or AWA. But that's where most of the clowns are anyway! A good percentage of the wrestlers in those two federations are guys who couldn't make it in the WWF, or who Mr. McMahon threw out. Besides, Hulk Hogan could beat *both* Mr. Ric "Dead From The Neck Up" Flair and Mr. Curt "Who's He?" Hennig—in one night!

As for the malcontents who don't like the WWF: switch to another federation; we don't need you. The ratings in this magazine show two WWF wrestlers in the top 10, three WWF teams in the top 10 tag team ratings, and three WWF stars in both the "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" rankings—that's much better than average.

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February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.



**APRIL 1983**

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Brisco, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.

September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.

October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.

December 1987/Grappling Ghoulies, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card

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## CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)



AWA World champion Curt Hennig chinlocks Greg Gagne, who almost won the belt in Minneapolis. The referee ended up disqualifying Gagne.

er, DeRusha had ruled that the match ended when Gagne threw Hennig over the top rope, thereby resulting in a disqualification that allowed Hennig to retain his belt.

In other bouts: Boris Zukhov & Soldat Ustinov successfully defended the AWA tag team title against Wahoo McDaniel & D.J. Peterson ... Tommy Rich pinned Kevin Kelly ... Manager Paul E. Dangerously's Midnight Express (Dennis Condrey & Randy Rose) beat J.T. Southern & Nick Kiniski ... Scott LeDoux beat Larry Zbyszko ... Adrian Adonis beat Stony Burke ... Mitch Snow and Ninja Go wrestled to a draw.

### LANDOVER, MD (Correspondent—Dave McCallister):

The fans at the Capital Centre didn't know who to root for when Brett Hart and Jim Neidhart—The Hart Foundation—defended their WWF tag team belts against a pair of wild savages, Kamala the Ugandan headhunter and Samoan Sika. Jimmy Hart was surprisingly absent, considering that Kamala and Sika were accompanied to the ring by handler Kim Chee.

The Harts (especially Brett) were reluctant to enter the ring at first and weren't quite sure how to handle these two unorthodox indi-

viduals. Once the match finally got underway, each team exchanged punches, kicks, and headbutts, with neither team gaining the advantage. Finally, Sika grabbed Neidhart and Kamala went for a flying tackle, but "The Anvil" moved out of the way and Kamala nailed Sika, knocking him to the mat. Neidhart then chased Kim Chee around the ring while Brett came off the top rope and hit Sika with a flying axhandle. "The Hit Man" then pinned Sika to win the match, but he paid a terrible price: Sika grabbed and held Brett while Kamala splashed him twice. Brett had to be carried out of the ring on a stretcher.



Kamala chokes Brett Hart with the ropes. The Hart Foundation beat Kamala and Sika in a battle between rulebreaking teams.

In other bouts: Hulk Hogan destroyed Killer Khan in a Mongolian stretcher match ... Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake defeated Greg Valentine by DQ when Johnny V interfered ... Ted DiBiase pinned Davey Boy Smith ... Magnificent Muraco defeated Cowboy Bob Orton by pinfall ... Barry Horowitz & Steve Lombardi defeated Brady Boone & Sivi Afi ... Iron Mike Sharpe pinned Jerry Allen. □

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